

Disability NOW

£1.60 MARCH 1997

The award
winning
newspaper
for everyone
with an interest
in disability

ELECTION SPECIAL

What the parties
have to offer you

9

INTERNATIONAL

Finding hope in
Gaza

15

FASHION

Making your clothes
work for you

16

CITY FOCUS

The ups and downs
of busy Bristol

20

CLASSIFIEDS

Jobs, friends,
bargains, breaks

28

High court shows it cares

Two children have won landmark legal battles which should improve the lives of child carers around the country.

In the first case to be brought under The Carers' Recognition and Services Act 1995, Newham Council agreed at the end of January to assess the needs of Elisha Whittingham, 14, who, along with her mother, looks after her severely disabled sister.

Two weeks earlier in another High Court case, 11-year-old Simon Bradford from Tower Hamlets won the right to have his housing needs assessed, after he was bullied for caring for his mother who has arthritis and epilepsy.

Elisha Whittingham had to bathe her ten-year-old sister in a washing up bowl because Newham Council had failed to install a suitable shower. Her sister Veniece has epilepsy and cerebral palsy.

In the High Court the council



Triumph: Elisha Whittingham

also agreed to provide emergency respite care for Elisha and her mother, to assess her mother's needs and to install a shower.

Miss Whittingham said: "Elisha was going to school tired and her school work was suffering. She was caring for Veniece instead of going out with her friends."

Government statistics show

that there are between 19,000 and 51,000 young carers in the UK. The Government had initially been opposed to including children in the Carers' Act, arguing that they were already covered by the Children Act.

Jill Pitkeathley, chief executive of the Carers National Association (CNA), said: "This case demonstrates how important it was to include young carers within the Act. It shows very dramatically how disability affects everyone in the family."

Newham Social Services is now carrying out the assessments. A council spokesman said: "We have given a clear commitment to the family and we will abide by it."

In the other case Mr Justice Kay ordered Simon Bradford's local council, Tower Hamlets, to carry out an assessment under the Children Act.

The council had previously assessed Simon's housing needs along with the rest of the family. It told DN they were already on the list for urgent rehousing, but that suitable accommodation was in short supply.

Francine Bates, CNA assistant director, said: "Simon's case highlights graphically the stigma that disabled people and their carers encounter daily."

"We hope that local authori-



Veniece will get a shower



Almost there: Simon Bradford and his parents EAST LONDON ADVERTISER

ties will take note of the case and ensure that children like Simon, a young carer, are properly housed with their families in adapted and safe accommodation."

However, the family's solicitor, Nicola Macintosh, said

there had been no let-up in the violence against the family since the case.

Simon's mother Anita, told DN: "I am scared stiff of going out of the house and they are still having a go at Simon."

THERA•POSTURE

Stay Independent in Comfort

Automatic Adjustable Bed

Theraposture offer a carefully thought-out range of products to help those with mobility problems enjoy the independence and comfort of their own homes.

Select Comfort

from over 1000 positions at the touch of a button.

Suppliers to DHS,
and Health Authorities

The Automatic Seat Lift Chair
& AutoLift Slumber Recliner



Stands you up,
sits you down,
nice and gently,
at the touch
of a button.



Fill in this coupon or phone for a **FREE** Brochure—no stamp needed
Please tick for brochure ☐ Beds ☐ Chairs

Name

Address

Tel

Post Code

DIN8

Relieves:
• Back and
chest problems
• Hiatus hernia
• Arthritic pain.

FOR A **FREE** BROCHURE
OR DEMONSTRATION
FREEPHONE
0800
83 46 54
24 HOUR BROCHURE LINE

THERA•POSTURE
Theraposture Limited,
FREEPOST,
Warminster,
Wilts., BA12 8TZ

Help with Daily Living from Chester-care

Making Independent Life at Home Easier

- Full 40 page colour catalogue
- For an easier and safer way of life at home
- Fast efficient mail order service
- Just complete the coupon or give us a call



Simple, easy
to use devices - not
readily available
elsewhere



MOBILITY



DINING



COMFORT



BATHING



SUPPORT



HOUSEHOLD

Chester-care

SIDINGS ROAD, LOWMOOR ROAD IND. ESTATE,
KIRKBY IN ASHFIELD, NOTTS NG17 7JZ



FOR YOUR **FREE**
CATALOGUE
PHONE OUR CARELINE
01623 757955
OR FILL OUT THE
COUPON BELOW

For your **FREE** Chester-care® catalogue
please fill out the coupon and send it
to the address opposite.

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

A Division of
Smith & Nephew Homecraft Ltd

Wheelchair voucher scheme slammed

Wheelchair users and therapists have criticised the Government over the implementation of the wheelchair voucher scheme.

Under the scheme, users will be given three options – to take a standard NHS wheelchair, or be given a voucher and contribute towards the cost of a chair from a range selected by the wheelchair service (partnership option), or use their

voucher and contribute towards the extra cost of a chair of their choice (the independent option).

Peter Mansell, chief executive of the Spinal Injuries Association, said that while it would improve choice for some, others could still be left with inadequate chairs. "It will only benefit those who have got some dosh."

"It is not addressing the issue of quality of wheelchair provi-

sion within the NHS."

Pru Cartwright, chair of the National Wheelchair Managers' Forum, said that there were not enough skilled wheelchair therapists to explain the scheme to clients and assess wheelchair suitability.

But the Government said the scheme improved choice and that any extra administration was being funded.



Icing on the cake: Anne Rae, chair of the British Council of Disabled People, cuts the cake at the launch of its National Centre for Independent Living. The three-year Government-funded project will advise local independent living schemes set up around the country how to coordinate direct payments for community care when they come into effect in April. Co-director Jane Campbell said: "By September we want every local authority to have embraced the idea of direct payments."

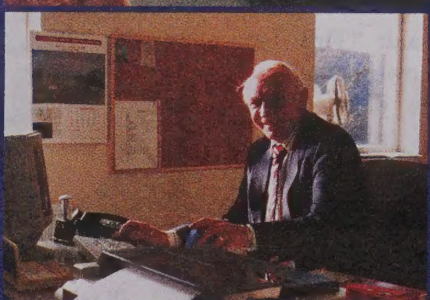
Tel: 0171-587 1663

Make plans to visit the first of the new Independent Living shows at Bristol's Whitchurch Sports Centre on 20-21 March. Besides products and equipment, there will be seminars for professionals. (See City Focus, p20 and coupon, p27.)

Europe's Leading Motor Caravan Stockists are in Newark

Specialists in Tax Free conversions for the disabled.

Demonstrators available.



EUROPE'S LARGEST DISPLAY OF NEW AND USED MOTORCARAVANS. It's the most exciting and comprehensive choice of up to 250 models from the leading manufacturers, in the finest motorcaravan centre in Europe.

UNBEATABLE FACILITIES

Unrivalled facilities include Open Parkland Site, Free Overnight Parking, Licensed Restaurant, Gift and Accessory Shops, Parking for 100 vehicles, Picnic Area, 24 Bay Workshop. And don't forget we are open every day!

FINANCIAL & INSURANCE ADVISORY SERVICE

We can offer advice and help with regard to financing and insuring the model of your choice with financial packages tailored to suit your needs. Written quotations on request.

CONVERTED FOR THE DISABLED

Disabled motorhome owners are well catered for by our specialist sales team at Brownhills, and we offer professional advice in converting most models to suit your requirements. Giving you freedom and independence.

REASSURING AFTER SALES SERVICE

Rest assured that Brownhills offer the finest after sales service available with our workshop and staff of 16 fitters able to provide a replacement and repair service second to none.

OWNERSHIP SUPPORT SCHEME

Brownhills 35 years experience in supplying motorcaravans and providing customer care is a reassuring factor to our customers. You will feel the strength of Brownhills around you.



BROWNHILLS

MOTORCARAVAN & LEISURE CENTRE

A1/A46 JUNCTION • NEWARK • NOTTS NG24 2EA
TELEPHONE: 01636 704201 FOR FREE STOCK LIST.



Disability NOW

Published by

Scope, 12 Park Crescent

London W1N 4EQ

Editorial: 0171-636 5020

Fax: 0171-436 4582

Minicom: 0171-436 9914

Editor Mary Wilkinson

Assistant Editor

Helen Gregory

Reporters Rod Hermeston

Jane Dunford

Features/Production

Assistant Alison Viña

Editorial Assistant/

Secretary Hayley Kerr

CIRCULATION

Manager Karen Bresloff

Deputy Manager Helen Crow

Assistant Davina Long

Tel: 0171-383 4575

ADVERTISING

Richard Gresham, Kingslea

Press Ltd, 12 Dock Offices,

Surrey Quays Road, London

SE16 2XU Tel: 0171-252 1362

Fax: 0171-237 8019

TYPESETTING/PRINTING

Voluntary Sector Services,

Centurion Press Ltd,

Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire,

tel: (01923) 891002

DISTRIBUTION

MMC, Octagon House, White

Hart Meadows, Ripley, Woking,

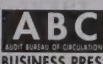
Surrey GU23 6HR

ISSN 0958-4676

The views expressed in Disability

Now are not necessarily

those of Scope.



Copyright © 1997 Scope

Stop press

Drivers' distress

Disability groups and others are upset by Motability's decision to change the eligibility criteria for its Driver's Fund, set up to pay for vehicle adaptations for wheelchair users.

To reduce the waiting list of 42, Motability introduced an "assisted driver" criteria which allows for someone to help the driver in and out of the vehicle.

"If you cannot go around on your own, it undermines the whole concept of empowerment that the fund was established for," said Stephen Bradshaw of the Spinal Injuries Association, which lobbied for the fund.

But grants committee chairman Joe Hennessy assured *DN* that it was a short term solution to get disabled drivers mobile.

Baby test shock

Antenatal tests are being virtually forced on some pregnant women, with health professionals making assumptions that screening is needed and that a disabled foetus would automatically be aborted, according to the National Childbirth Trust.

In a survey of 2,700 women, it studied 352 cases in detail. It found 17 per cent said the hospital had made assumptions and 10 per cent had felt pressurised.

One woman reported the consultant as saying: "If there's something wrong with the baby we just get rid of it."

Can you help?

DN and the International Cerebral Palsy Society (ICPS) are campaigning for long-term support for Hannan Jaafreh (see page 9). Hannan has learning difficulties and was found in a cage in Palestine.

Candidate first

Liberal Democrat David Buxton has been chosen as prospective parliamentary candidate for Lewisham East and is believed to be the first born-deaf candidate in British political history.



Mr Buxton, 32, was a Southwark councillor for four years.

Rights Now switch

Disability group Rights Now has a new line-up.

Solicitor David Ruebain is vice-chair, Jane Campbell is secretary and Debbie Smith is the treasurer.

New chair Rachel Hurst makes it a hat-trick of appointments as she is already secretary of the British Council of Disabled People and chair of Disabled People's International, Europe region.



Well tried: A team of 30 people with learning disabilities showed rugby fans their stuff when they played a curtain raiser before the England v Scotland match at Twickenham in February. The players, from adult education centres around Leeds, gave a display of New Image Rugby – a minimal contact version of Rugby Union developed by the Rugby Football Union (North) and Leeds City Council.

YORKSHIRE ELECTRICITY

Pitfalls of going private

Quality of care for disabled and elderly people could suffer if Tory plans to privatise social services go ahead.

The Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) warns that privatisation of the country's £8 billion care programme will lead to a "quick and certain" reduction in standards.

President Bob Lewis said in January that leaving provision solely to non-statutory suppliers could lead to a "menacing monopoly of private sector provision, with all the dangers of price-hiking implicit in such a situation".

A Department of Health White Paper on social services, to be published in March, is expected to introduce compulsory competitive tendering for most of social services.

In Kent, where the county council faces a shortfall of £24 million for its social services provision, home care for elderly and disabled people has already been contracted out in a desperate attempt to save cash.

A Department of Health spokeswoman said: "We are looking for the best way to provide the service. This is a White Paper which means there will be

much discussion before anything is decided."

• Bus privatisation has made it more difficult for passengers to get information which would allow them to plan their journeys, says a new report, leading to fears that visually impaired and blind people are losing out.

The report, *Making Connections*, by the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development, says: "Operators see more financial advantage in competing than in coordination, and are often reluctant to participate in through-ticketing, synchronised services and information systems."

Feeding scandal in NHS

Disabled people are not being fed properly in NHS hospitals raising fears that some elderly patients are being deliberately starved, says a report.

Hungry in Hospital cites one relative of an elderly patient, who said: "We feel there was a policy on his ward that if you were expected to recover, you were helped to eat. If not, you were left to fade away."

The report, published by the Association of Community Health Councils for England and Wales, urges the Department of Health to ensure accusations are investigated.

It adds: "In some hospitals no one is taking responsibility for ensuring that patients are eating."

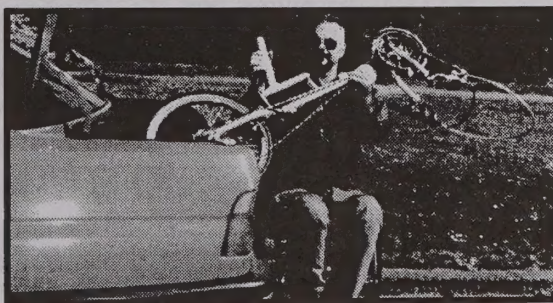
It says people with learning disabilities may not understand how to order and people with visual impairments may not realise that food has arrived.

Pam Jones was disgusted at the way catering staff in one hospital treated her mother Ivy, from Liverpool, who had restricted movement and was in hospital with heart problems before she died last year.

"On at least one occasion they left the food out of my mother's reach. When she asked them to move the tray closer, they said they did not have the time."

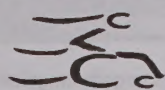
The report suggests that one cause of the problem may be a shortage of nurses.

**Celebrate our 10th Birthday
by saving £300 off
special edition "Easyriders"**



**We have been
manufacturing light-
weight wheelchairs &
handcycles to order for
the past 10 years. Find
out more by calling
Chevron
for a brochure
or demo**

**10 Special Edition
Easy Rider Handcycle
attachments are available for
just £995!**
(std offer price £1295)



**18 Summers Road,
Brunswick Business Park,
Liverpool L3 4BL**



0151 707 1146



HOW TO CHOOSE A POWERCHAIR OR SCOOTER

**New, free booklet explains and guides,
ensuring that you make the right decision**

Considering buying a mobility vehicle in the next few months? Then you should know about a new, free advisory booklet which will undoubtedly help you to make the right decision.

The easy to read booklet contains all the answers you need to make sense of what can be a complicated affair. It tells you about all the different models available, how they work, what happens when they go wrong and the best way to go about buying a scooter or powerchair.

"The In's and Out's of buying a mobility vehicle" also arms you with a series

of questions that you will want to ask before you make your mind up, giving you all the information before you make the important choice.

Get all the facts. Produced by the Mobility Matters Network of mobility specialists "The In's and Out's of buying a mobility vehicle" is available now, free of charge. All you have to do is simply call our 24 Hour Booklet Request Line on 0990 134 130 or write to Mobility Matters, Dept DN3/97, Freepost NH0170, Kettering, NN14 6YA. A booklet will be sent to you within 14 days from one of the Mobility Matters local Distributors.

War pension row drags on

The Government is coming under mounting pressure to withdraw tougher rules on war pensions for deafness.

The rules mean that the effects of ageing cannot be considered in assessing pension eligibility.

A pension can now be obtained only if a hearing loss of at least 20 per cent is attributable to gunfire while the person is still in the forces. This effectively rules out most new claims for war disablement pension for hearing loss.

The Government climbed down over general cuts in payments in January. It planned to insist that war pensioners had to produce independent evidence of a worsening of their condition before their entitlement could be reviewed. This idea has now been scrapped.

It also proposed to save millions by phasing out the war widow's rent allowance.

But later Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley said: "We will not proceed with the original proposal to abolish war widow's rent allowance for new claims."

Lord Ashley of Stoke said: "It is now clear that the Government has been wrong in claiming it has the weight of medical evidence on its side. The Secretary of State should immediately order an investigation and, this time, have it conducted by fully qualified and respected experts in the field."

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People and the British Legion are calling for a re-examination of the medical evidence.

• Lord Mackay has agreed to cut through the red tape holding up 18,000 war pension appeals to tribunals. Many appeals involve changes in benefits ordered by the social security department and some face a two-year wait.



A model idea: Blind and visually impaired visitors to the Houses of Parliament can literally feel their way around the Palace, thanks to a new tactile model. Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt Hon Betty Boothroyd (above) tested it out in January. With braille labels and a computer-controlled soundtrack commentary for both the limewood scale model and flat plan, people will be able to learn about the Palace as they arrive for a tour.

JANE DUNFORD

Blair shows he cares

Labour leader Tony Blair gave his vote to carers at the launch of a new guide.

Signposts through the Maze was produced by the Carers National Association and gives an overview of the law as it relates to carers, as well as help through the "maze of legislation".

Mr Blair said: "A Labour government will not take carers for granted. We want to listen to your concerns and work with you to build the partnership that we need. Supporting carers is important to our policies to strengthen families and rebuild the social fabric of our society."

LIVE LIFE AT BLENHEIM!

CARE INCLUSIVE HOLIDAYS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE (AND THEIR PARTNERS) IN RURAL LINCOLNSHIRE



**CHOICE OF ONE WEEK BREAKS DURING SUMMER '97
RANGE OF OUTINGS AND ACTIVITIES
GOOD FOOD, GOOD CARE, GOOD COMPANY!**

The Blenheim Centres

**TELEPHONE 01427 668175
AND ASK FOR OUR HOLIDAY PACK**

Permanent and Respite Care also available in this Specialist Nursing Home for Disabled People

Mental health split

Mental health charities are split over Government plans for the future of mental health services.

Developing Partnerships in Mental Health, a green paper published in February, outlines a number of options for changing the present system.

At the moment, health authorities and local authorities share responsibility for provision. The green paper follows a number of high profile killings and suicides by mentally ill people which have sparked demand for better service coordination.

SANE has welcomed the most radical option – the creation of single mental health and social care authorities for mentally ill people.

But MIND has opposed this

and demanded that already successful services are introduced across the country, including 24-hour crisis services to help people in the early stages of distress and involvement of users in the development of services.

The National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts (NAHAT) favours mental health agencies headed by a single manager to commission services, with health authorities and social services keeping their existing responsibilities – also outlined in the green paper.

Other options include one authority (most likely the health authority) taking responsibility for services, or delegation of specific responsibility.

Bill bids to give fair share

Tens of thousands of disabled people could benefit when building societies are floated on the stock market this year.

Hopes were raised after Tory MP Douglas French introduced the Building Societies (Distribution) Bill which was unopposed during its first reading at the House of Commons.

At present, some disabled people are barred from receiving the cash payouts because their accounts are handled by other people, such as nursing homes which have one trustee account on behalf of several members.

The Bill will force those societies turning into banks to include disabled people in their payouts.

It has been backed by opposition disabilities spokespeople Tom Clarke and Liz Lynne but could fall because of lack of time in this Parliamentary session.

Mr French believes there are at least 100,000 members of societies such as the Halifax and Alliance & Leicester.

SEN Appeal

The Education (Special Educational Needs) (SEN) Bill goes back to the House of Commons after being approved in the House of Lords.

The Private Member's Bill aims to give children a full and independent voice in appeal proceedings by taking appeals away from the SEN Tribunal and hearing them at the High Court instead.

During the debate, Lord Morris of Castle Morris said local authorities were concerned that the tribunals were susceptible to organised campaigning by "certain pressure groups".

STAIR CLIMBING AND STANDING UP SOLUTIONS



- UK's largest range of stairclimbers
- Prices from £2,850-£12,500
- User operated
- Carer controlled
- No building alterations
- Used at work, school and home
- Free demonstrations

Many architectural barriers can be dealt with by climbing stairs, or by standing up and reaching new heights. With a large choice of models the correct solution can be found from total user independence to attendant assisted. Our range of ramps for home, car, travel, complete the solution options.

FREE DEMONSTRATIONS, ASSESSMENTS.

**CONTACT
JOHN CHAMBERLAIN
WHEELCHAIR
CORPORATION LTD**
Inc Moor House, Chelmarsh, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 6AZ
Tel: 01746 861940 Mobile: 0374 274919 Fax: 01746 862085



- Stand up at home, work
- Socially, sports, leisure
- Improves general health
- Folding manual model
- All powered options
- Simple one hand control
- Use at a rehabilitation centre

Crisis in the capital

Cash shortages have caused a mental health care crisis in the capital, according to a new report.

Cases of psychosis in inner London are double that in other inner cities, while 11 of the 26 recent investigations into killings by mental health patients were in London.

London's Mental Health, published by the King's Fund, says the closure of wards to fund community-based care has led to an in-patient services crisis. In some parts of London 25 per cent of those needing a bed have to wait.

The report adds that there is also a shortage of psychiatric

staff, psychologists and community-based residential facilities.

"It is more difficult to get help in London than in other cities," says the report. "The formula for allocating resources to deprived inner city areas needs to be revisited."

Mental health charity MIND national director, Judi Clements, said: "MIND has been warning Government that the failure to properly fund comprehensive community care would lead to a crisis."

Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of SANE, said: "It is disgraceful that seriously mentally ill people are either discharged

too early or are not admitted to hospital for the care they need."

But Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell defended the funding formula, which he argued had been changed to reflect the fact that there was a higher incidence of mental illness in London.

He said the Government was spending an extra £25 million on mental health services for London.

• Half of all psychiatric hospitals are operating above capacity with more patients on their books than beds available, according to a survey by the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts.

MPs probe Motability

The Public Accounts Committee, Parliament's financial watchdog, has demanded to see two key reports about Motability – from solicitors Bircham purporting to show that governors did not know the financial position, and from merchant bank Schroder showing that in 1993 Motability's profit was apparently twice that of a typical leasing company.

MPs grilled Motability director Noel Muddiman and Department of Social Security permanent secretary Ann Bowtell for two hours last month and may call them back. Working from the National

Audit Office report published last summer, they wanted to know, among other things, why the charity, which now has 300,000 users representing nearly 6 per cent of the car leasing market, needed £26.9 million reserves in 1995, if it was getting the best terms for its customers, and if the lending banks had made too much profit.

Mrs Bowtell and Mr Muddiman put many of Motability's problems down to the rapid growth of the scheme and argued that changes had been made and monitoring established. But this did not satisfy some MPs.

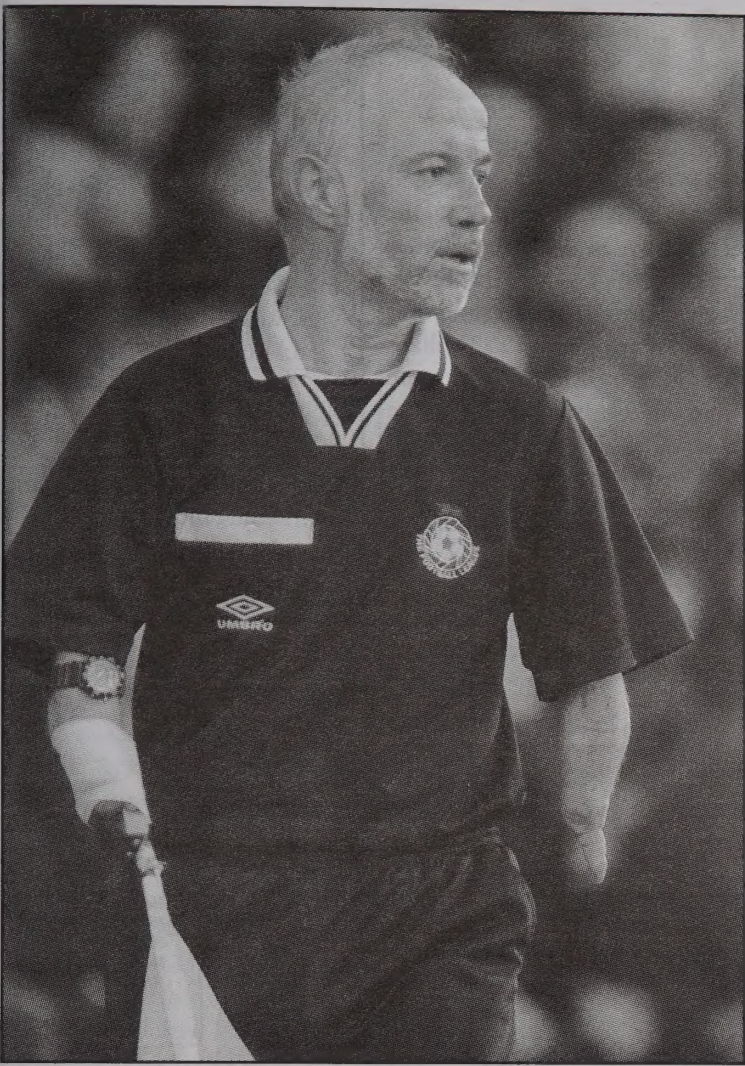
It was noted that Motability's governors were male, middle-aged and long serving. Mr

Muddiman said it was a matter of finding people with necessary skills.

Jean Ashcroft, Arthritis Care's director of public policy and information, would be willing to serve. She said: "Governors of Motability should be representative of the users, and the majority of users have arthritis."

Douglas Campbell, director of the Disabled Drivers' Association, is still not convinced that the discounts on the Motability scheme are adequate. "I hope the committee will pursue that."

He also wants them to "get to grips" with the 10th Anniversary Trust. "It is not made up of profits, but of money taken off disabled people."



End of the line: Richard Saunders is set to hang up his flags after 12 years as a football referee's assistant. Mr Saunders was born with shortened arms – what he describes as "an early form of thalidomide" – and has been running the line up and down the divisions after starting out in the game as a footballer. Now 44, he has not come across any other physically disabled match officials in his time in the game. He says players, particularly from the big clubs, are more likely to be verbally abusive, but not about his disability. On the one or two occasions a disparaging voice from the crowd has commented on him being disabled, he has made a joke of it and given as good as he's got. "I'm not against being used as a role model for disabled youngsters wanting to get into the game – if they've got the desire and ability for the job." He now intends to concentrate on his golf handicap.

COLORSPORT

ACCESSIBLE SHARAN NO HUMPS, NO BUMPERS & NOT A VAN!



- Retaining all the standard interior and exterior features of the VW Sharan
- There is the option of single or double light-weight loading ramps
- A retractable side step is also available



- Our adaption of this ultra modern people carrier is designed primarily to carry a wheelchair bound passenger and up to 5 other persons



- Our dedicated wheelchair area caters for 95% of standard & electrical chairs in use

All vehicles are tailored to individual needs. Prices from £17,406 on the road
Telephone for a no obligation one day free trial



AUTOMOTIVE GROUP
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
24 DIANA STREET, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE4 6BQ
TELEPHONE: (0191) 226 0099 FAX: (0191) 272 1313



hiatus hernia • arthritis • backpain

Get relief NOW from –
HIGH & LOW BACKPAIN • ARTHRITIS
RHEUMATISM • CIRCULATION PROBLEMS
TIGHT SHOULDERS • HIATUS HERNIA
SWOLLEN LEGS/OEDEMA • RESPIRATION PROBLEMS

relax 'n' sleepbetta
ALL AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON
TAKE AWAY THE STRAIN OF SITTING DOWN AND STANDING UP WITH A **relaxbetta** RISER-RECLINER MULTI-PURPOSE PUSH BUTTON ADJUSTABLE CHAIR*
*OPTIONAL FULL BODY MASSAGE

FULLY GUARANTEED
FULL IN-HOUSE SERVICE WARRANTY INCLUDED
relax aching muscles!
UP TO 40% DISCOUNT
FOR THE DISABLED OR ELDERLY
NOW
NO VAT FOR THE DISABLED

THE **sleepbetta** BED* HAS PROVEN TO BE A GREAT RELIEF TO PEOPLE IN PAIN FROM A VARIETY OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS!
*OPTIONAL FULL BODY MASSAGE
NORMAL RAISE BACK RAISE LEGS RAISE BOTH

For further information call **FREEPHONE NOW!**

0800 614 267

or SEND the coupon below **FREEPOST**

I would like more information please on ☐ Riser-Recliner Chairs ☐ Adjustable Beds

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

POST TO: **relax 'n' sleepbetta** FREEPOST NWW1210, MANCHESTER. M12 9RS

ME girl in bid for school

The mother of a 16-year-old girl with ME is demanding that the local education authority educate her daughter until she is 19.

Kate Gifford, from Colchester, has been unable to attend school since she was 13 and can only cope with two hours of home tutorial a week.

But Essex County Council does not think it necessary to give Kate an educational statement of needs which would guarantee her schooling after July.

"Kate has missed vital years of school and yet even the minimal education she gets may soon be stopped. How can she ever catch up?" said her mother Ann.

Mrs Gifford lost her case to have Kate statemented at an educational tribunal last November and is now appealing against the decision.

"Hundreds of children with ME face these sorts of difficulties," said a spokeswoman for the National Association for the Education of Sick Children.

"It is often impossible to get a statement for them."

An Essex County Council spokesman said Kate's needs would be reviewed in the summer and that it might be possible for her school to continue home tuition in the sixth form.

Eye test cost plea

More than half a million elderly people are at risk of losing their sight because they cannot afford an eye test, according to a new report by the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB).

Potentially blinding eye conditions such as glaucoma can often be treated if they are detected early enough.

But a study of nearly 1,500 people in the report *Losing Sight of Blindness* showed that 26 per cent aged 60 and over

have not had an eye test in the last two years – 500,000 would not have a test because of the cost.

One pensioner, typical of thousands, told how the fee put her off for so long that when she did visit the optometrist it was too late to save her sight.

Universal free eye tests were abolished in 1989 and the RNIB is calling for tests for older people and other groups at high risk of blinding conditions to be free.

"Many older people are need-

lessly losing their sight," said Sue Grindey, manager of the RNIB's eye health programme.

"The cost of re-introducing eye tests for people aged 60 and over would only be about £32 million per year. This would be more than offset by the savings on the cost of services to those who may lose their sight."

A spokesman from the Department of Health said many pensioners could afford to pay it and it was right that they should.

Long stretch for 'Lazarus'

An epileptic man who conned churchgoers into believing he was a brain damaged wheelchair user, then faked a miracle recovery during a service, was jailed for 21 months.

Paul Redhead, 29, from Coventry, staged the "Lazarus re-enactment" after he was given a temporary wheelchair.

He duped the congregation into raising money for him, then staged a "cure" when he became fed up with the hoax, Birmingham Crown Court heard.

Canada joins fraud battle

The battle to combat social security fraud has crossed the Atlantic as Britain and Canada join forces to "beat the cheats".

The two countries will now share information to investigate cases of suspected fraud.

More than £125 million is paid in benefits to UK citizens living in Canada and more than £1 billion to 800,000 claimants worldwide.

Secretary of State for Social Security, Peter Lilley, said that the arrangement with Canada would undoubtedly save money.

The move follows the success of similar arrangements in Europe. In one case a man claiming Incapacity Benefit from a Preston address was working as a builder in Portugal for seven years.



"It's a good job that you *can* walk - none of our prisons are wheelchair accessible!"

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ALDERSLEY EXCEL RANGE



EXCEL TREKKA

Juniors and the smaller adult up to 10 stones

First of its kind

Wide wheels for stability

Up to 50 stone carrying capacity

Ideal trekker

Tested by Blackpool Wheelchair Evaluation Centre

Suspension for comfort

Manoeuvrable and compact

Customized to suit client

Versatile indoor and outdoor

Carer or user control

EXCEL SUPREME

Notability



Aldersley Battery Chairs Limited
24-26 Old Meeting Road, Coseley,
West Midlands WV14 8HB
Tel: 0121 520 6942
Fax: 0121 522 4833

MOBILITY SOLUTIONS

FOR DISABLED DRIVERS & PASSENGERS

WE OFFER A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE, FROM HAND CONTROLS TO WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE AND WHEELCHAIR DRIVER VEHICLES, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN. IF YOU HAVE A MOBILITY PROBLEM CALL US FOR THE SOLUTION.



EXTRA



COURIER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND LITERATURE ON OUR RANGE OF PRODUCTS & SERVICES CONTACT:

POYNTING
CONVERSIONS

FARADAY ROAD
CHURCHFIELDS IND. EST.
SALISBURY
WILTSHIRE
SP2 7NR

01722 336048

In brief

Thieves ruin service

Vandals have broken into a disability advice centre nine times since it opened eight months ago. Two printers, two fax machines, two computers and one minicom have been stolen from the disability information service office at the South Gloucestershire Centre for Integrated Living in Cadbury Heath.

Making waves

The all-disabled crew of the Time and Tide yacht are now a respectable 12th in the 14-boat round-the-world BT Global Challenge. The crew have left Sydney and are on the journey to Cape Town, which is expected to take six weeks.

US cuts benefits

More than 135,000 disabled children from low income families in the United States could lose an average of \$424 (£249) a month in disability benefits under a new welfare law. The Welfare Reform Law, passed last August, forced the Federal Government to redefine disability to tighten eligibility. Now the administration has decided that children with certain learning disabilities, behavioural or hyperactivity disorders and arthritis, might not be eligible. Marty Ford, from learning disabilities' charity The Arc, said: "They are going to hurt far too many children. It will be devastating to the families."

Games cash bid

Cerebral Palsy Sport is seeking a £50,000 sponsor for the Cerebral Palsy International Sport and Recreation Association World Games - Robin Hood '97. The games will take place in Nottingham in July with 840 athletes competing from 35 different countries. Meanwhile, Bob Price OBE was elected as the new chairman of the British Paralympic Association in January.

Complaint rejected

Sarah Chapman - who alleges that she broke her right arm during a Benefits Agency All Work Test (DN October 96) - has had her complaint rejected by the Benefits Agency. An inquiry decided that the injury did not occur as a result of negligence on the part of the examining doctor. She is still considering legal action.

Correction

From DN's February issue: The telephone number for the Disability in Business information line is 0800 100 000.

Fears for deaf patients in hospital

An attempt to improve services for deaf people at a Welsh hospital has backfired with critics labelling the scheme "potentially disastrous". Some nursing staff at the Cardiff Royal Infirmary (CRI) have been trained in elementary signing in an initiative by the hospital trust. But the Cardiff District Hearing Impaired Support Group

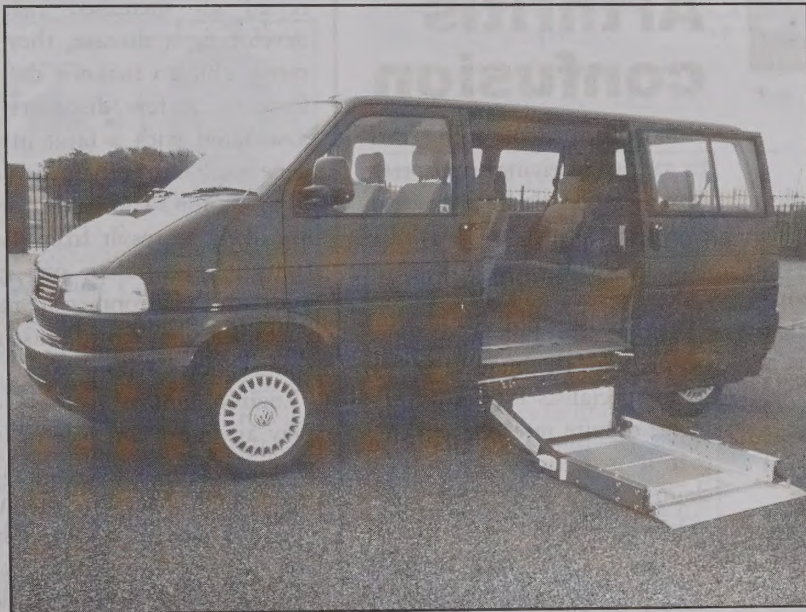
(CDISG) claims these staff are sometimes used for complex interpreting which can leave deaf patients confused about their condition and treatment. "With poor communication, a patient may not be able to get across what medication he's taking and the end result could be disastrous," said honorary secretary Cedric Moon. "The trust is leaving itself wide open

to being sued for negligence." He called for regulations on interpreting to be introduced. The hospital denied that nurses and receptionists with only stages I and II British Sign Language qualifications acted as interpreters and said that the local health authority's fully-trained signer was used. "Nurses do not act as interpreters," said Brin Rees-Evans,

business manager at the hospital. "We are trying to push the services available to deaf people forward and it seems to have backfired on us." Chief executive of the British Deaf Association, Jeff McWhinney, said: "This highlights the fact that deaf people should be encouraged to enter the medical profession themselves."



The New Volkswagen Caravelle by Invatravel Conversions



Various options of wheelchair access available on this super new model, including:

- underfloor electro-hydraulic lifts
- hydraulic lowering rear suspension with spring assisted alloy ramp
- manual ramps, etc

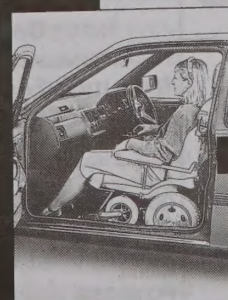
Disabled driver options for full independence.

Prices start from £16,995 on the road excluding all taxes from which disabled users are exempt.



APPROVED CONVERTER OF
THE VOLKSWAGEN
CARAVELLE RANGE

Contact Paul Cassidy or David Reid,
tel: 01704 506608, Fax: 01704 506607.
66 Knob Hall Lane, Southport PR9 9QS.

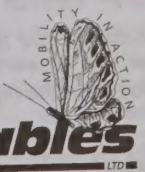


As easy as 1.2.3

Constables unique Carchair system provides the ultimate freedom and independence for the wheelchair user. By adapting into either the passenger or drivers seat of a standard production car; the Carchair eliminates the need to purchase a special vehicle.

Comprising of a specially designed wheelchair and lift system the Carchair is extremely simple to operate.

To arrange a free demonstration of this, or any Constables product without obligation, please telephone or write.



CONSTABLES LTD • DEPT DN • FREEPOST (BR1032) • WESTHAM • PEVENSEY • EAST SUSSEX • BN24 5BR • TELEPHONE: (01323) 767574



Hayley Roberts finds the pager a godsend

MMP

A good reminder

An electronic pager is helping people with brain injuries to remember their daily routines.

The American-designed device is being tested at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Ely where 27 people have used it.

People with impaired memory can carry around the device known as the Neuropage which reminds them of activities.

It receives pre-set, timed messages from a central computer after users tell staff what per-

sonal reminders they want.

"If you use a pager to establish a routine and then take the pager away, some people can then continue that routine without the pager," said Jonathan Evans, a clinical psychologist at the hospital.

Mites get the bite

London researchers are developing a vaccine which could eventually offer immunity from house dust mites – a common

trigger of asthma.

The team led by Jonathan Lamb, professor of immunology at Imperial College, London, hopes to use genetic material – derived from house dust mites – which could enter the body attached to a bacteria such as BCG which is used for immunisation against tuberculosis.

But Professor Lamb stressed that there would be no vaccine in the immediate future.

A spokesman for the National Asthma Campaign welcomed the research, but said: "There are other triggers for asthma including cold, smoking and exercise. We do not yet know how to find a cure because of these various triggers."

Arthritis confusion

Hundreds of people with arthritis are not receiving appropriate care because GPs are unaware of effective treatment, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council (ARC) has warned.

Doctors are failing to refer people with rheumatoid arthritis to specialists for early treatment, despite research showing that it is critical, the council claims.

Over the last few years recommendations on ways to treat the condition have emerged. It is now known that the best way to fight it and reduce disability is to attack it aggressively as early as possible.

Genes show fits the mood

Insurance companies are to start demanding the results of genetic tests as a requirement for new policies.

The proposals were published as a code of practice in February and were opposed by some MPs and medical researchers. But applicants for insurance who have previously had genetic tests would be obliged to reveal the results, in a move similar to the demands about HIV tests in the 1980s.

Although genetic tests can reveal an increased risk of developing a disease, they are rarely able to make a definite forecast. A few disorders are associated with a fault in one gene, such as cystic fibrosis and Huntingdon's chorea, but most are likely to result from variations in more than one gene and from environmental influences, such as heart disease and some cancers.

Environmental factors can play an important role in triggering a genetic predisposition to certain diseases, which is why the discrimination inherent in insurance firms asking for test results is so unfair, illogical and potentially dangerous.

Scientists at the Royal Society believe that genetic research will lead to a better under-

standing of disease mechanisms, cheaper and more accurate diagnoses of common diseases, better drug treatments and tailoring prevention of treatment to take account of genetic factors.

However an increased emphasis on genetics may also result in a belief in genetic determinism – namely, you aren't what you eat but what your genes say you are.

As a result, the economic social and cultural factors which help shape people may be ignored, and prevention may often mean selective abortion.

Attitudes to parenthood may also change. Knowingly having children with genetic diseases may be seen as irresponsible.

The Science Museum is running an exhibition on genetics until 13 April, (tel: 0171-938 9788) which gives an accessible introduction to the subject.

Pictures and the words of real people show visitors that genetics is about humans, not just diseases. Tay-Sachs disease and sickle cell broaden the ethnic scope and examples of the effects of social responses to diseases are mentioned.

It reminds us all that there are few laws and regulations about genetics.

Agnes Fletcher

0115 9110316

COMFORT AID'S

0115 9110316

The DANAID Comfort WHEELCHAIR



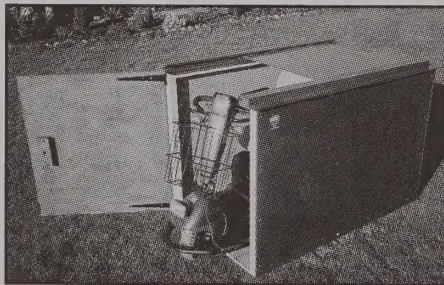
- Adjustable – no tools required
- Simple, elegant design
- Tailored posture support
- Pressure sore relieving design
- Tilts in space and reclines
- Elevating footrests

Options include:

- Power driven, transit or self propelled
- Manual or electric tilt & recline
- Headrests - Table - Pommels - Harnesses
- Body & Side supports
- Optional five year guarantee

The ideal chair for the more disabled user

The Scooter Hut



The Comfort Aids scooter hut solves all your scooter storage problems:

- Affordable
- Weatherproof
- Accessible
- Lockable
- Charger shelf built-in
- Will sit on any flat land



Available to you at a very special price of only £400.00

Delivery and installation available - price dependent on distance.

For further info return the reply coupon to: Comfort Aids, 24/26 Glasshouse Street, Nottingham NG1 3LW
From name _____ Address _____

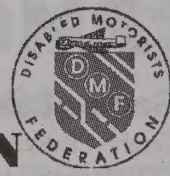
Post code _____ tel no _____

I would like information on: The Scooterhut ☐ Danaid ☐

DN3/97

HAVE YOU TRIED?...

THE DISABLED MOTORISTS FEDERATION



Our Members Enjoy

The largest Mobility Database in Europe.

Regular magazine & newsletters, plus **free** use of RAMP, the unique Award-winning Route-Planner for people on the move.

For free information pack write:

D.M.F., National Mobility Centre,
FREEPOST SY961 Unit 2a Atcham Estate,
Shrewsbury SY4 4BR or
Tel: 01922 415848/Fax 01743 761149

D.M.F. FOR DISABLED DRIVERS GOING PLACES



INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

INPUT SWITCHES • POWERED MOBILITY • PAGE TURNERS
COMMUNICATION AIDS • SWITCH ADAPTERS • COMPUTER ACCESS
MOUNTING EQUIPMENT • HEAD SUPPORTS • ALARMS & INTERCOMS
SPECIAL SEATING • INTEGRATED SYSTEMS • CUSTOM SOLUTIONS

ADDRESS:
QUEST ENABLING DESIGNS LTD
242 GOSPORT ROAD
FAREHAM
HANTS
PO16 0SS

TELEPHONE: (01329) 828444
FACSIMILE: (01329) 828800
E MAIL: SALES@QEDLTD.UK.COM

VISIT QED ON THE INTERNET:
WWW.QEDLTD.UK.COM

Please quote this publication when replying to this advertisement, thank you.

Disability groups call on politicians to listen to their views

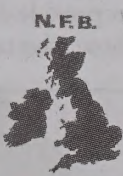
What we want from government

As the General Election approaches *DN* has put together three pages of information and opinions. Here, charities have their say.



Connell Gebbie, president of the National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom, says: "Whichever party is elected, we want a better appreciation of the problems caused by blindness when

awarding Attendance and Disability Living Allowance, a fair deal for blind and partially sighted jobseekers, and a set of real teeth for the National Disability Council."



The British Council of Disabled People wants the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) repealed. Chair Anne Rae says: "Any new government must repeal the DDA and put in place comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation which would end unequivocally the discrimination and oppression of disabled people in the UK. The current Act does not address discrimination from where it starts, which is education and mobility. Without those two very important clauses, the DDA means nothing."



Richard Gutch, chief executive of Arthritis Care, says: "One thing an incoming government could do to improve the lives of people with arthritis would be to introduce national minimum standards for community care."

"An incoming government should recognise the need for central funding in order to make community care a reality."

"It would be very short-sighted not to invest in a service to enable people with arthritis to live independently in the community."

Carers National Association (CNA) says holidays are of great importance to its members.



"A new government could improve the lives of carers by



following up on the success of the Carers Act by giving carers a right to a break (respite care)," says the chief executive, Jill Pitkeathley.

"Thousands of carers still attend to the daily needs of their disabled sons and daughters, often for months on end without a day off," says Steven Billington, of Mencap.



"Many carers are themselves elderly and infirm. The next

government should implement the Disabled Persons and Carers (Short Term Breaks) Bill, to ensure that people with a learning disability and their carers are guaranteed regular breaks."

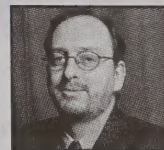


Director of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, Bert Massie, says: "Our membership covers people with such a diversity of impairments it would be foolish to single out one issue. So although a Commission to enforce full anti-discrimination legislation might top the list, remember what the Disability Manifesto says: all the needs of disabled people are of equal importance. It is wrong to choose from them."



The Spinal Injuries Association wants the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance paid without restriction to people in hospital.

Chief executive Peter Mansell



says: "It would speed up the rehabilitation process by getting people mobile as soon as possible after injury because they would be able to lease or buy an adapted car."

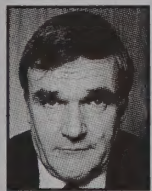
"The next government should fully commit itself to making community care work for everyone, rather than allow people with mental health problems to be scapegoated," says Judi Clements, Mind's national director.



"Government should also use its immense power of influence to build a fair and just society which encourages people with disabilities to live active and fulfilling lives – a very basic human right of all citizens."

RNID

The RNID wants to see deaf people fully integrated into society. Chief executive Doug Alker says: "We want to know



if a new government will ensure that the subtitling and signing of television programmes increases beyond the current low targets, ensure that deaf students meet education and training targets, and guarantee the continued provision of free and appropriate hearing aids to those who need them."

Rights request

Most of the charities we surveyed called for full civil rights to be introduced.

Arthritis Care, The Carers' National Association, MIND, Mencap, RNIB, RNID, RADAR and Scope are also committed to the Disability Manifesto (*DN*, October) to be relaunched before the election.

Sally Greengross, director general of Age Concern England, says: "We would like to see the next government find a way, through a mix of state and other provision, to ensure that pensioners have at least £125 per



week to live on. "We would encourage all older people to question candidates on the issues affecting them...including low income, health care and poor community care."

Don't lose your vote

Most polling stations are still as inaccessible to disabled people as they were in 1992, according to the charity Scope.

Polls Apart, its survey after the last election, found only 12 per cent of stations were fully accessible, and campaigns development manager Jane Enticott says the situation has not really improved since.

Slippery floors, uneven pathways, steps, and lack of assistance are all cited as problems faced by disabled people when trying to cast their vote.

Scope has sent the facts and a check list to the 1,600-plus parliamentary candidates in the hope that they will help implement measures such as ensuring

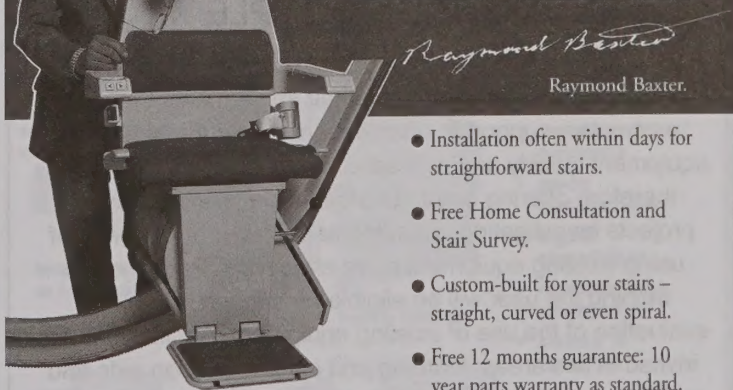
that there is at least one accessible polling booth for each station and the local authority publicises the registration and postal vote process in appropriate venues, eg. day centres.

Voting by post

Applications for postal/proxy votes have to be made 13 working days before polling day. Ask your electoral registration officer at the town hall for a RPF 7B form.

If you become ill after the 13th day, ask for form RPF9B which has to be signed by a doctor and returned six working days before polling day.

"Find out why it's the world's most chosen stairlift!"



- Installation often within days for straightforward stairs.
- Free Home Consultation and Stair Survey.
- Custom-built for your stairs – straight, curved or even spiral.
- Free 12 months guarantee: 10 year parts warranty as standard.
- Nationwide local service centres – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Buy direct from the manufacturer at a price less steep than you think.

All over the world, more people have chosen a Stannah stairlift than any other. Our experience, expertise and standards of service have convinced them that a Stannah stairlift is the best way to get their lives back to normal.

Call free on 0800 715124 and ask for ext. 45

Or write to Stannah Stairlifts Ltd: Dept 45, FREEPOST, SA344, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR.

Are you enquiring for your household ☐ Or relative living elsewhere ☐

Please send me details of Stannah Stairlifts.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Dept 45 ®

Stannah

The world's most chosen stairlift

The disability spokespeople outline their aims and beliefs to DN



ALISTAIR BURT



CONSERVATIVE

"We do not believe in giving wide ranging and ill-defined 'rights' to disabled people. Such rights would be hard to enforce and expensive to implement. A Civil Rights Commission would cost an estimated £51 million a year to run. Expenditure would be better used helping carers, paying for mobility or working costs, rather than subsidising expensive legal battles.

"We will not reinstate the Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance because it is not right to pay people twice from public funds as extra mobility costs are no longer applicable in hospital.

"We are constantly examining eligibility for Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance. Steps to help disabled people into work are legion. (See below.)

"We recognise the importance of respite care which the Government encourages local authorities to provide as part of

community care. We have improved the terms of Invalid Care Allowance, eg the amount carers can earn without affecting their benefit has risen five-fold since 1990. We will continue to examine how support for carers can be strengthened.

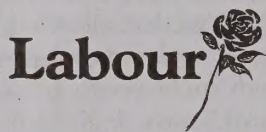
"We encourage private personal pensions and have ensured that pensioners' incomes have risen by 60 per cent in real terms since 1979. We are spending £1.2 billion a year extra on poorer pensioners. Creating a minimum income of £125 per week would retard not advance this process and would cost at least £4.3 billion a year.

"While adequate provision must always be available for those who are unable to meet the cost of their care, the principal responsibility for social care must rest with the individual citizen."

Mr Burt could not comment on the contents of the manifesto.



TOM CLARKE



"We support comprehensive, enforceable, civil rights for dis-

abled people against discrimination in society or at work, developed in partnership with all interested parties. We see the disability agenda as one of both rights and opportunities and Tony Blair has made clear that increasing opportunities for everyone will be our top priority in government. One of our first priorities will be to establish a Disability Rights Commission to advise ministers.

"On the social care side, we will seek to build on the pioneering work already done in promoting independent living and direct payments for disabled people.

"Large parts of the Disability Discrimination Act are likely to be amended by an incoming Labour government.

"We intend to include carers in local consultations to draw up Community Care plans which determine the services provided by the local councils and the NHS.

"As far as pensioners in general are concerned, the basic state pension will remain non-means tested and we will introduce a new Pension Entitlement to tackle pensioner poverty. We will also ensure the opportunity of a second tier pension through new Stakeholder Pension schemes whilst retaining SERPS as an option.

"We plan to review eligibility criteria causing the greatest problems [for benefits including Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Attendance Allowance and Incapacity Benefit] and we

will also review the cuts to the mobility component of DLA.

"We will review the current targets in government and work with broadcasters, interested parties and the broadcasting industry regulators to ensure as great a proportion of programmes are accessible to deaf people as possible.

"We will, of course, continue to provide free hearing aids to those who need them."



LIZ LYNNE



"The Liberal Democrats are committed to the introduction of full civil rights legislation and the establishment of a Human Rights Commission which would monitor and enforce anti-discrimination legislation for disabled people.

"They are vital in fighting discrimination in the workplace and ensuring that public transport, education and training are more accessible to blind and par-

tially sighted people.

"We would replace the Disability Living Allowance with a Disablement Costs Allowance. The new benefit would be designed to compensate people for the costs of their disability.

"The Government's arguments for removing Mobility Component were very weak and this is why we opposed its plans. It should be reinstated.

"The Access to Work budget should at least be maintained.

"Liberal Democrats are committed to introducing a total state pension based on two elements – a basic state pension, equivalent to the current pension, which would be universal and uprated in line with prices.

"There would also be an additional element paid to those in greatest need which would be indexed to average earnings.

"We would create an independent inspectorate for residential and nursing homes, with published codes of practice and the power to close homes that fall short of required standards.

"The merger of health and social services would stop people falling through the net. Social services should, wherever possible, provide a hand-up to independence. It is vital that the over-65s are eligible for community care direct payments.

"Liberal Democrats would introduce a proper carer's benefit and increase respite care facilities."

THE NUFFIELD FOUNDATION VISCOUNT NUFFIELD AUXILIARY FUND MAKING TECHNOLOGY WORK FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

People with disabilities are more readily given aids and equipment to help overcome their impairments than the necessary support to enable them to use the aids and equipment quickly and with ease. The Nuffield Foundation is therefore offering grants to organisations with ideas for projects investigating, adapting or demonstrating a way of using existing equipment more effectively. Packages for training the user will be eligible for support, as will the evaluation of the use of existing equipment. Applications are invited in two areas: learning and communication aids and mobility aids. The grants cannot be used to help individuals buy or adapt equipment, and projects which mainly benefit an institution should indicate the ways in which the results of the work will be made more generally known. The sum available is £133,000. In 1996 nine grants were made, ranging from £4,700 to £22,735. The closing date is 1 April 1997.

Further details may be obtained by writing to:

The Nuffield Foundation, 28 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3EG; or by telephone:

Application form/information sheet: 0171-580 7434

Queries/additional information: 0171-631 0566.

Please quote reference VNAF/AW

What have the Conservatives given us? A guide to the last five years

1992

- Further and Higher Education Act put a duty on Local Education Authorities (LEAs) and Further Education Funding Council to consider the needs of people with learning difficulties in securing further education.
- Disability Living Allowance introduced to give benefit to more than 500,000 less severely disabled people unable to qualify under old rules.
- Disability Working Allowance introduced to give extra help to disabled workers on low incomes.
- Building regulations changed to require all new, non-domestic buildings to be accessible.

1993

- Education Act requires LEAs to provide special needs children with mainstream school places.
- Funding for TECs to provide local training for severely dis-

abled people as an alternative to residential care.

- Road Traffic (Driving Instruction by Disabled Persons) Act passed to allow disabled people to become driving instructors.

1994

- Access to Work scheme introduced to give equipment and assistance to disabled people in employment.
- Educational Code of Practice introduced to help schools, LEAs and related services to provide an integrated service.

1995

- Disability Discrimination Act makes it illegal for disabled people to be discriminated against by employers with more than 20 employees and gives a right of access to goods and services. Schools and colleges are obliged to give better information about facilities to disabled students

and the Transport Secretary is now able to set minimum access standards for public transport. Other clauses to be phased in.

- Government gave £11.5m to London Dial A Ride services.

1996

- The Community Care (Direct Payments) Act passed to enable local authorities to make cash payments to some disabled people in lieu of services.
 - Wheelchair voucher scheme introduced to give more choice to wheelchair users.
 - Access to Work budget increased to £19m. Scheme now meets 100 per cent of costs for unemployed; employers meet first £300 per year for present employees and 20 per cent of costs above that.
 - Schools Access Initiative makes £10m available to improve access to mainstream schools.
- This is not a complete list.*

DN speaks to disabled people at three marginal seats in the UK

Rochdale respects Lynne

Liz Lynne, the Liberal Democrat spokesperson on social security and disability, had a majority of 1,839 over Labour in the 1992 election. She is widely respected among disabled people in Rochdale as someone who fights for their rights.

But can she fight off the challenge this time from Labour candidate Lorna Fitzsimons?

Doris Lord, 75, chair of the Access Planning Group Rochdale, will be voting Labour.

"The most tragic thing that the Government did was not letting the civil rights Bill go through," she said.

She does not think the Disability Discrimination Act and National Disability Council will do much good, and adds: "In Rochdale it is difficult to get anywhere. There are no dropped floor buses or buses with lifts."

Safia Hussein (below) has three disabled children with physical and learning disabilities. She previously voted Conservative but is undecided this time.



She wants to see better Government funding of local councils. "Everything you ask for,

such as the downstairs showers we wanted, takes a long time and they always say there is a lack of money.

"I want more respite care. You only get it for a short time and can't get any in emergencies."

Stephen Jones, 44, is visually impaired and also on the Access Planning Group. He is an undecided voter: "I am not sure whether Labour would introduce full civil rights. They talk about it, but talk is cheap."

"Now that the Government has introduced an employer contribution under the Access to Work Scheme it puts employ-

ers off taking on disabled people even more than before."

His wife Kathy, 36, is undecided how to vote. "The candidates come round canvassing



for your vote but when you ask them for information in an accessible form they have a problem."

Philip Howard, 27, will probably vote Labour. "I have to travel to college in an ambulance. I hate it. I want the same things other people my age want. I want accessible transport



Liz Lynne MP

and access to buildings."

Sarah Loach, 84, (left) said: "I have been going to our local day centre for ten years and I have never seen it like it is today - there are half the helpers and half the kitchen staff. Government cuts spoil everything."

"Liz Lynne comes round to our Age Concern meetings and has a chinwag with us all."

Bristol MP finds little support 14 years on

Conservative MP Michael Stern has held the Bristol North West seat for 14 years, winning the 1992 election by just 45 votes. Back in 1987 he had a majority of 6,952 - the highest ever for the seat.

His list of interests in the House of Commons include "mental handicap" and he believes the views of disabled people are very important. But he says he will not be campaigning on any issues relating to them because "That's not my style of politics."

Mr Stern added: "I do get involved in legal issues involv-

ing groups of disabled people and I am backing the family of a girl suffering from cerebral palsy who will suffer unless the housing department agrees to adaptations to their house."

Some of his disabled constituents believe that Mr Stern's party has done very little for them.



Gillian Evans, 50, (left) said: "The Government says the amount of benefit you get can give you a normal life, but it is so little that it's just not possible."



Michael Stern MP

"Accessible transport is the most important thing for me, but there isn't any in Bristol, even though it wouldn't cost much."



She also criticised the Disability Discrimination Act. "It's as good as useless because shops are still making excuses for being inaccessible."

Rose Williams, 73, (above) said: "The Government never consult us, but it would save them a lot of money if they did."

Labour candidate Douglas Smith appears to be keeping a low profile.

Beryl Richardson, 75, said she did not know who was standing against Mr Stern.

"You would have thought they would send us some information, but they haven't" she said.

Rodney Horne, 54, and wife Jean, 51, (below) said they would both be voting Labour.



Mr Horne said: "The Conservatives have done nothing for disabled people and my quality of life has not improved in the last few years."

Ipswich switch?



Jamie Cann MP

Labour MP Jamie Cann has held his Ipswich seat since 1992 with a majority of 265.

He has intervened on behalf of many disabled people who had problems claiming Disability Living Allowance and visits the town's Disability Awareness Group meetings.

"I was involved in Tom Clarke's campaign to end discrimination in employment and I welcome the DDA but believe it does not go far enough."

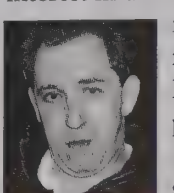
"I will fight for better access to public buildings. Disabled people's issues are important and I would encourage them to keep

the pressure up - there are a lot of Parliamentarians who will listen."

Most disabled constituents who spoke to DN said they were likely to support Labour rather than the Tory candidate Stephen Castle.

Brian Hammond, 49, said: "Things have improved but not as fast as most people would have liked. I see the DDA as a step backwards and hope an incoming Government would review it."

"Jamie Cann has shown an interest in disabled people. I am inclined to vote for him although I have not completely decided."



Cecil Long, 49, said: "Life is a continuing struggle for disabled people. You have to fight for everything. Things haven't improved under the Tories. I would vote for Labour."

Chris Killick, 33, (above) said: "If the Labour Party would

commit itself to full civil rights it would get in because of the six million disabled people who would vote for it."

"A new Government should repeal the DDA. Although I haven't got much faith in Labour, I will not vote Conservative."

Madeleine Pye, 42, (right) said: "Things are improving. Having someone like Ann Begg in Parliament must make a difference."



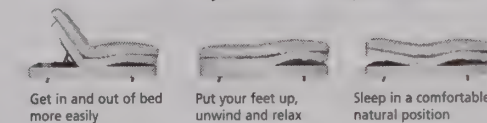
"The next Government should go and meet disabled people and there should be a disability awareness day which all MPs should spend in a wheelchair."

"If Jamie Cann were an independent MP he would have my vote, but I'm unsure about Labour. I'm disillusioned with both parties."

David Burgess, 62, said: "I think that the Government has done a great deal with the DLA and Motability scheme. It's not enough but I will vote Conservative."

BACKPAIN • ARTHRITIS • HIATUS HERNIA

The Concern for Comfort Adjustable Bed has proved to be a boon to sufferers of a wide variety of medical conditions. If you are troubled by:



CONCERN FOR COMFORT
...the rest comes naturally

Send for a FREE
colour brochure

FREephone 0800 371663

Name(Title) _____
Phone _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

CONCERN FOR COMFORT • FREEPOST (PAM 6722) LONDON W13 0BR

Ian Mackintosh believes something must be done urgently to sort out the 'fearful mess' of piecemeal policies and practice

'We need a Ministry for Disabled People'



Time off from the frustrations: playing with Saskia

ALISON VINA

With an election looming, the time is again ripe to raise the matter of a Ministry for Disabled People.

As the father of a seriously disabled little girl, I would like to have a say, because personal experience has convinced my wife and I that something badly needs to be done to sort out what has become a fearful mess.

Various departments are all singing to slightly (sometimes grossly) different hymn sheets, taking advice (sometimes not) from the myriad of special institutions trying to do good, and an army of specialists often convinced (but sometimes endearingly unsure) that they alone hold the key to improving the lot of disabled people.

Take equipment. Quite properly, the state plays a vital role in providing special-needs equipment. But, except for bog-standard items, which ministry – if any – will give the required support can be a lottery.

We have been trying for about two years to get financial support to provide Saskia with a "walker". This device (occasionally available on loan) has no pedals, but Saskia can

sit astride it and propel herself about a bit.

It is not a motorised wheelchair (not needed yet), which, no doubt, the NHS would provide, funds allowing. Nor is it a tricycle (which she cannot

pedal) in which case social services would probably oblige in the interest of her "mobility".

But a "walker", which would certainly assist her to learn to walk *and* give her enhanced mobility, seems to reside in

some kind of limbo – a ministerial no-man's land, copiously carpeted with letters and memos, one to the other, explaining why it is not coming out of their budget.

Then there is the matter of schooling. Saskia is relatively lucky, living where she does, since the Westminster local education authority (LEA) has an enlightened approach to supporting disabled children.

She gets funding for attending a special school which combines conductive education with the national curriculum, and is provided each school day with transport and an escort.

But a little boy we know who lives in nearby Lambeth has failed – even after an appeal to which we contributed evidence – to get anything like the same level of support.

Geographical disparities of this kind are not only ludicrous but grossly inefficient, absorbing the time and effort of parents and officials, to say nothing of the despair engendered in parents who lose out.

But it gets worse. Each LEA has – indeed, seems to be encouraged by central government to have – its own approach to providing special-needs education facilities.

In county A, the strategy might be to equip some mainstream schools to take disabled children – ramps, therapists, and so forth. But county B may feel it is better to provide funds for a special

school which can handle a wide range of disabilities, thus concentrating resources and expertise in one place.

So where you live (or in many cases where you work) determines the kind of educational facilities your disabled child will be offered.

Concerned parents who have become convinced of the correct course of development and education for their child had better choose their home and LEA accordingly, or let the child suffer the consequences.

Now all of this is clearly nonsense. While the principle of "subsidiarity" is sound and can be applied just as well to regional as to national government where expenditure is primarily local, when it comes to the treatment of disabilities there are no experts, no-one knows for sure what is right for any particular child and the "best" approach may change with time, for example, as a child develops and grows.

The nation as a whole must take responsibility for providing the full range of services which disabled people need, by constructing common guidelines, strategies, funding principles, etc.

In short, we need a Ministry for Disabled People with a national remit, able to put together a coherent set of policies and given enough Treasury funding to provide facilities, services and equipment at local level.

Naturally, it will not be cheap – not, that is, in the short run. But the better a nation looks after its disabled children, the less of a burden – financial and emotional – they are likely to be when grown-up.

In our case, we hope the therapies and education Saskia continues to get – God and the LEA willing – will give her the ability to function productively using 21st Century computer tools. If so, it will have been partly through an effective working partnership between her parents and intelligent, informed officials.

I hope soon to see them all employed to even better effect in a single Ministry serving the needs of all disabled people.

Professor Ian Mackintosh is director of the European Foundation for Technical Innovation, University College, London.

Barclays services for disabled customers

At Barclays, we have an ongoing commitment to customer service – for *everyone*.

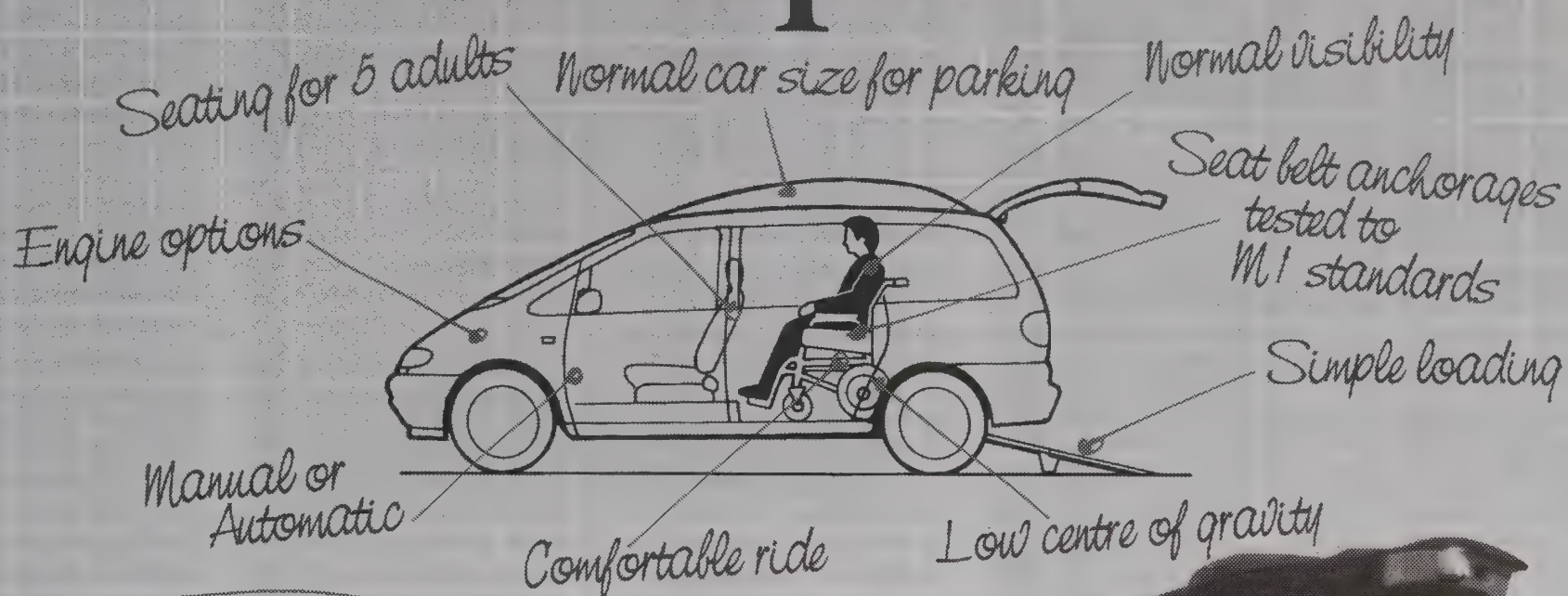
For a copy of our leaflet detailing our services for disabled customers call the Barclays Information Line **free on 0800 400 100**.

Making our services available to our disabled customers



Barclays Bank PLC. Reg. No. 1026167. Registered in London, England. Reg. Office: 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH. Barclays Bank PLC is a member of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme (UK branches only).

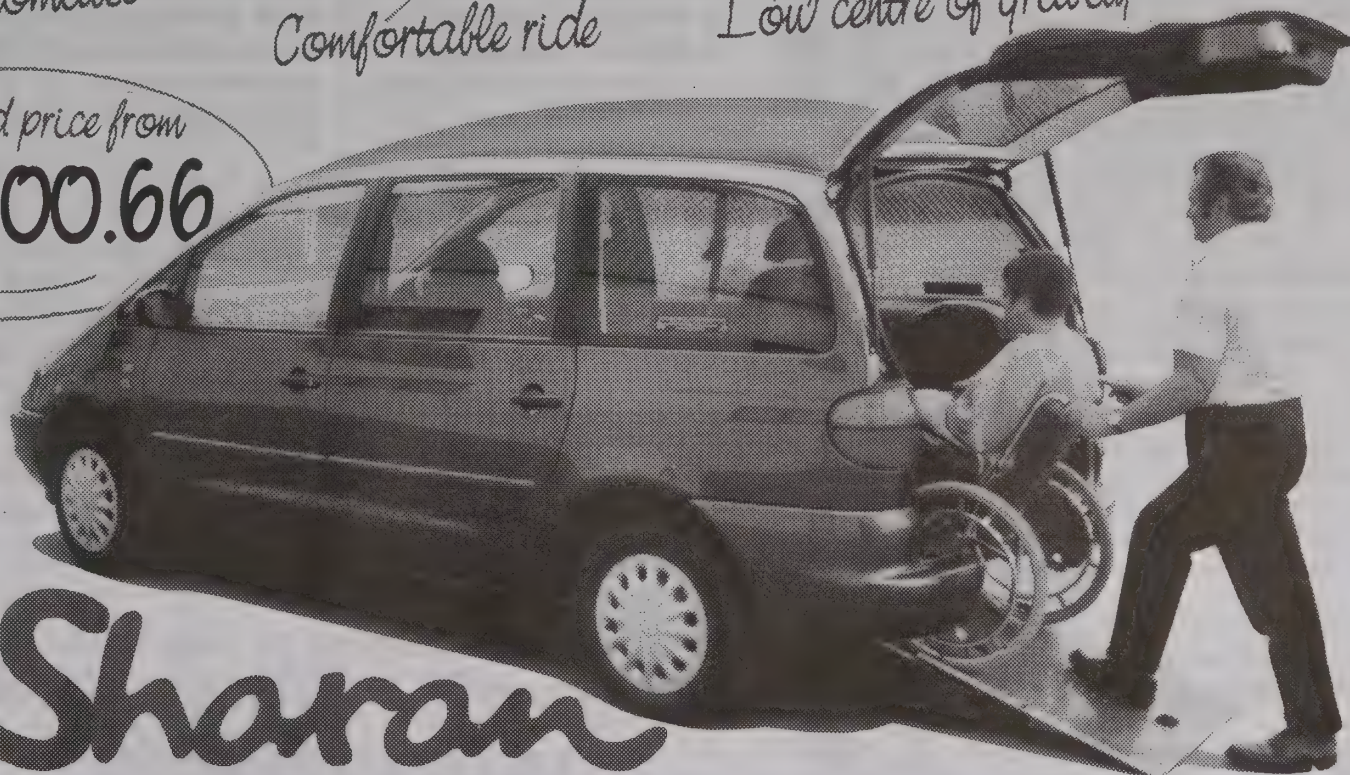
Are You Looking For Transport?



On the road price from
£23,700.66

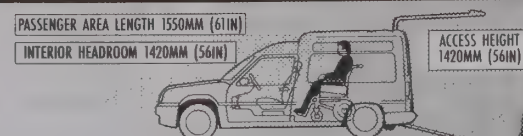


Sharan

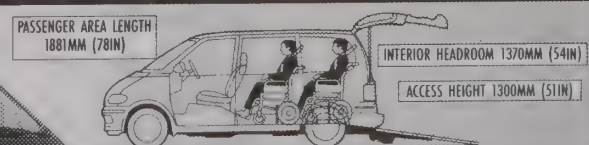


Look no further than a Brotherwood Conversion for purchase, Lease or Hire.

Renault 'Eco' 1.9 Ltr Diesel £11,912 On the road price



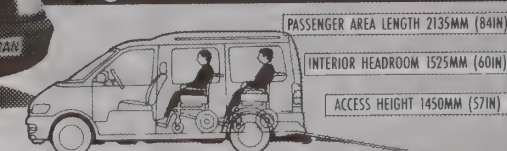
Nissan Serena 1.6 Petrol / 2.3 Diesel from £20,072



Ford 'Combi' 1.8 Ltr Diesel £14,713 On the road price



'Cargo 60' 2.3 Ltr Diesel £17,949 On the road price



We sell Secondhand refurbished Nissan Prairies MkI and MkII, with full parts and labour warrantee. Please phone for full details and an information pack, or visit our factory showroom.



BROTHERWOOD
AUTOMOBILITY LIMITED

Pillar Box Lane, Beer Hackett, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 6QP • Telephone: 01935 872603 • Fax: 01935 872853

Letters to the Editor



Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ
Minicom: 0171-436 9914 Fax: 0171-436 4582

Foolish to feel ashamed

Recent letters in Share Your Problems have asked how disabled people could call themselves "proud" to be disabled. Can I make some suggestions?

First, many of us would distinguish between our impairments, which are medical issues, and our identity as disabled people.

Being disabled means belonging to a social group which faces discrimination and prejudice in society. It is these social and political restrictions which cause most of our problems and which we are campaigning to remove.

We are proud because we are part of a group of people who are strong, support each other and achieve great things. It is this collective of resistance that helps us survive as individuals, and makes us glad to be disabled people. We realise that the problem does not reside in us; it resides in society, and so we are able to feel positive about ourselves and our bodies.

For some people, being disabled means turning into different sorts of people: for instance, men might become

less macho and more sensitive. It may open up new opportunities – in sports, in disability arts, as trainers or organisers or activists. It certainly may mean making new friends.

For others, like myself, who have always been disabled, we have nothing to compare ourselves to and so we are proud of our achievements in work or family life. It would be foolish always to feel ashamed of who we are.

None of this is to minimise the pains and problems that having an impairment brings. Instead, it is about celebrating our achievements, and working to make being disabled less restrictive and, ultimately, about empowering ourselves.

And it is about remembering that many of the major figures in human history – from Roosevelt to Cole Porter, from Proust to Plath, from Hawking to Handel to Harriet Tubman – were themselves disabled people. I think that's something to be proud of too.

Tom Shakespeare
Gateshead

How about Spastics bubble bath?

I have the condition scoliosis – a severe spinal curvature which pushes the body into awful deformity. This creates breathing difficulties, heart and mobility problems. Life expectancy is much reduced and as the vertebrae fuse together the pain levels become unbearable.

As a child I went through hell every time *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* was shown on television. I have walked into classrooms to find blackboard drawings of a hunchback (HB) with my name written beneath.

Now, as the millennium approaches, I find myself once again suffering the stares and whispers of children who have seen the film.

The final straw was to go Christmas shopping in my wheelchair and be confronted by bold signs advertising HB bubble baths, HB soap sets, etc. I was so upset that I went home empty-handed.

My point is that the film and the merchandising are discriminatory and offensive towards people suffering from scoliosis. Do you see Spastics bubble bath or Downs Syndrome soap sets?

I wrote to Disney Studios in the USA but they didn't bother to reply.

Can we stop this happening please?

Mrs L J Carpenter
Keresley, Coventry

Student diary

Spice Girl dancing

by Marigold Hope

Late one night, my flatmates and I made our answerphone message. Loudly and out of tune we sang the Spice Girls' song: "Tell me what you want, what you really want, Oh, tell me what you want", etc.

I'll tell you what I want: not another term like the last one. I felt very unhinged. I went out too much, did too many extra curricula activities, had flat and boyfriend problems, bad insomnia and poor grades as a result. I went home at Christmas hating Edinburgh.

Since then, I have made some changes and things have improved. I've dropped most of my outside activities to give myself more space, although I go to meditation classes led by a Scottish Buddhist.

Being relaxed has never been my forte. When I meditate, I become acutely aware of my leg pain.

Too often I break the treaty I made with myself, whereby I recognise the restrictions that my legs put on what I can do, and the warfare between me and my legs continues. I instinctively want to run around. I feel free. I'm like the cavalry. It is not my legs that are doing the running, dancing,



standing or stair climbing. But when I stop, my legs retaliate, invading me with pain. Will I resolve this battle? I think meditating is a start.

Many people I know have been having flat problems. I thought not living with my close friends would work. My flatmates are warm people. It's just that I discovered they are completely different to me.

Because they are all best friends, doing the same course as each other, and everything else together too, I began to feel lonely. I tried to join in with them. They got me to do Spice Girl dancing with them, but my heart was not in it. I could not become the tv addict, lottery loving Spice Girl that they wanted me to be.

A tense unspoken subtext started whenever I was with any of them. I ended up "hiding away" in my bedroom, or going to friends' houses. I decided to move out, but the only nice places were inaccessible.

Last week I confronted my flatmates and we talked things through. I wish I had done it sooner. My flat feels like home now. I'm going to live with my close friends next year, but I'm glad I didn't move out.

Things are not totally resolved with my ex-boyfriend yet. After nine intense months, daily phone calls and rendezvous, it is hard to let go. I know the heartbreak will ease. And as my flatmates would say: "Girl Power".

DN's diary

A smell too far?

Looking through Kirton Healthcare's multi-sensory catalogue, full of wonderful ways to stimulate children and adults in sensory environments, DN came across a reminiscence pack "particularly suitable for use with the elderly". Christmas sounded promising – a heady mix of fir, mulled wine and roast turkey, maybe. But The Black Range, The Old Teapot, Washday, Hospital? Would they appeal to you?

Post modern

Good to see that Disability Scotland used the "positive about disabled people" logo in its recent ad for a "Post – Director". What was more, the salary started at 333,234.

Phone **now** for your free copy of the
JMC Rehab Ltd. catalogue

Covering a wide range of healthcare and
self-help equipment, the catalogue includes:

- Bathing Aids
- Dining Aids
- Nursing Aids
- Walking Aids
- Patient Transfer Equipment
- Footwear

For your free, full colour catalogue please
telephone on Freecall 0500 221 222.



JMC Rehab Ltd.
1 Hogg Street
Airdrie
LANARKSHIRE
ML6 9JH

Tel: 01236 764874
Fax: 01236 765828

JMC REHAB LTD.

"At last an exhibition to rival Naidex"
BBC2 From the Edge, November 1996

INFODEX

THE event for disabled people, older
people and carers.

AT

The Imperial War Museum, Duxford,
Cambs (Junction 10, M11)

April 24th-25th 1997 10am-5pm

&

The Three Counties Showground,
Malvern, Worcs

June 25th-26th 1997 10am-5pm

Free admission * Accessible facilities *
Ample free parking

Organised by: INFODEX, Adbaston,
Ixworth Road, Honington, Suffolk IP31
1QX, tel: 01359 268614/fax: 01359
268666

Hope in Gaza

...but pioneering services face many problems, Anita Loring found

The long sand-choked road lined with dwellings, shops and strips of cultivated land suddenly opened out into a square, and there was Al Amal (Hope City). It is in Khan Younis, a large town at the southern end of the Gaza Strip.

Built by the Palestine Red Crescent Society, Al Amal is the brainchild of Dr Fathi Arafat, brother of Yasser Arafat, Palestine's president.

It is no ordinary centre for people with disabilities. It houses a concert hall, swimming pool, two restaurants, a hotel, a folklore museum and artists' studios as well as assessment rooms, school rooms, workshops and two emergency operating theatres with intensive care beds. The land outside will have outdoor recreation facilities.



Hope: Dr Arafat and Anita Loring

Although building work is not quite finished, so eager was everyone to get started that the schoolrooms are already operating and the craft workshops are in full swing.

How many disabled people there are in Gaza is unknown. Over 750,000 people live in a strip 25 miles long and as little as four miles wide in places. With a high birth rate (about 40,000 deliveries a year), it is estimated that one fifth of the babies will have cerebral palsy, due to consanguinity (marriage between first cousins is common) or because they are premature.

Birth control needs urgent attention. Once a Muslim couple marry they are expected to produce numerous children and, if they don't, their relatives and neighbours wonder why. It is common to meet a woman in her early 30s with 10 children or more.

By contrast to Hope City, the Child Development Centre in Gaza City, founded in 1986 by the Benevolent Society for the Gaza Strip, now faces serious funding problems. The Palestinian family behind the society has money problems of its own. Trained staff have had to



Hopes dashed? Physio for children at the Gaza City centre faces cuts

ANITA LORING

leave and when we visited in December there were only two physios facing a long line of mothers and children.

Palestinian land is still surrounded by Israeli controlled land and not easy to visit. When I was there, Gaza had only two entry points, and our papers were heavily scrutinised. There is nearly a mile of no man's land between one check point and the next. Gaza's Minister of Public Relations said that during a recent skirmish 1,700 people died in 72 hours because

they could not reach medical care due to checkpoint delays.

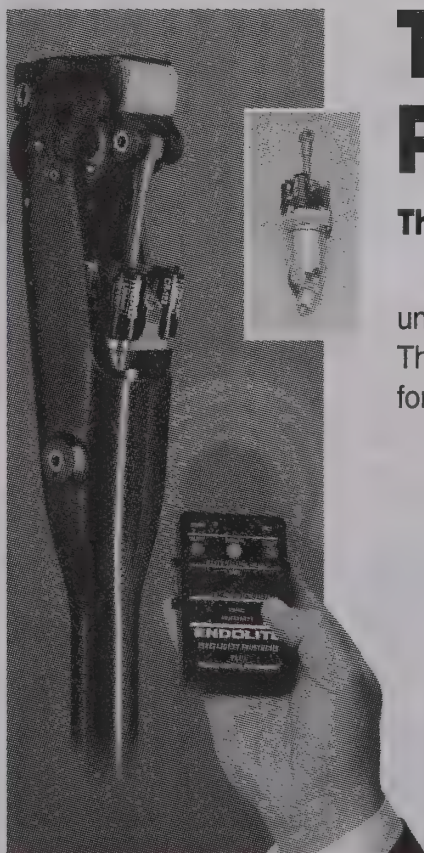
I saw Palestinian rehab experts from the West Bank visiting Hope City for a meeting who had to rush off the day after because their "passes" expired at noon.

If professionals had freedom to travel to support each other and exchange information, it would go a long way towards helping to develop services.

Anita Loring is secretary general of The International Cerebral Palsy Society (ICPS).



Can anyone give hope to teenager Hannan Jaafreh, who has learning difficulties? Her Palestinian family is poor, her mother is sick. They live in Jerusalem. She was found caged and living "like an animal" at her home because no one would take responsibility for her care. Just before Christmas, the Israeli social welfare office placed her in a centre costing £1,100 a month. But only for six months. DN and ICPS are campaigning for her long-term support. Please phone DN on 0171-636 5020 or ICPS on 0181-995 5721. AWAD AWAD/OBSERVER



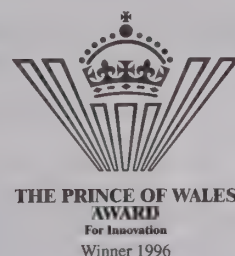
The Intelligent Prosthesis Plus

The award winning lower limb prosthesis only from Endolite

The IP+ has won two prestigious awards in recognition of its unique design and function:
The Prince of Wales Award for Innovation and The Queen's Award for Technological Achievement.



THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR
TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT



THE PRINCE OF WALES
AWARD
For Innovation
Winner 1996

Order the Intelligent Prosthesis Plus by contacting the Blatchford Sales Department on 01256 465771.

Chas. A. Blatchford & Sons Ltd

Lister Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG22 4AH United Kingdom
Telephone: 01256 465 771 Facsimile: 01256 479 705

ENDOLITE

Style that's just t

Hayley Kerr on ways to brighten up your nine-to-five

Yasmin Jeelani works as respite care manager of the Disability Alliance Centre at Central Middlesex Hospital. Her varied job means that she needs clothes that are comfortable as well as smart.

When we arrived she had on a traditional 'shalwar kamiz' in a stunning green, which has the added bonus of being an all-in-one outfit, doing away with the need to shop for separates.

Yasmin, who has had polio, prefers to wear long dresses and skirts. At 4ft 10in, finding skirts that are the right length can be difficult. But she rated the long navy dress from Next's Petite range very comfortable (*see below*), and found the shorter length indigo skirt from Marks

& Spencer to be "just the right length" (*bottom right*).

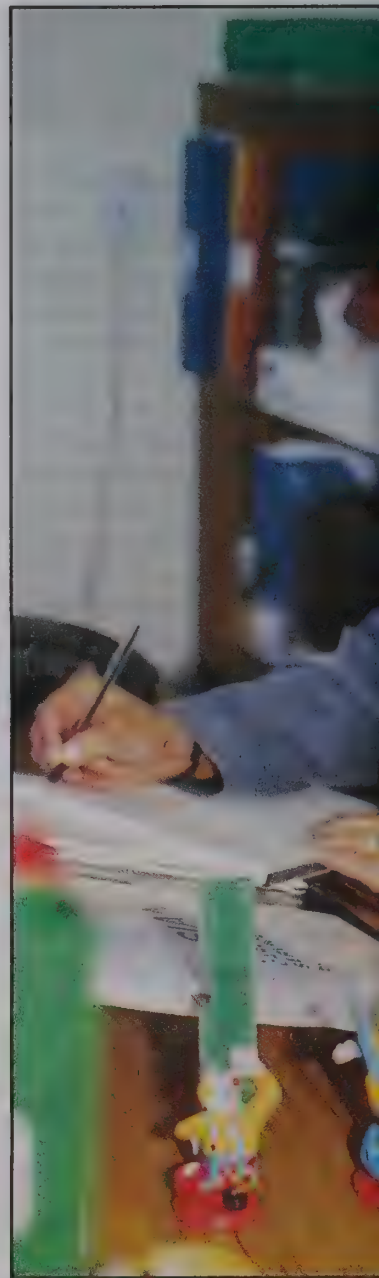
Yasmin really enjoyed modelling and thought it was a great way to try out new clothes without going shopping.

As an administrative officer at the Department of Education and Employment's Employment Service, Tim Honnor has to follow the Department's strict dress guidelines. A collar and tie is the norm, but we thought we'd introduce some more colourful examples.

Tim has hemiplegia in his right side, and chooses shirts where he can get his right hand through the cuff without undoing the buttons. Of all our colour combinations, he especially liked the blue shirt and yellow tie (*above right centre*), but his favourite item had to be the orange flame tie from Marks & Spencer (*left*).

All in a day's work (*left*): Tim looks smart in a white shirt (cotton, Next, £21.99), flame tie (silk, Marks and Spencer £10) and suit trousers (polyester/wool, Next, £89.99).

A working wardrobe (*right*): Yasmin wears a navy dress (viscose, Next, £39.99), honey jacket (wool, Laura Ashley, £110) and scarf (polyester, Marks & Spencer, £10)



Yasmin catches up with some p blouse (silk, Laura Ashley, £35), Marks & Spencer, £85) and pat Spencer, £7).

Walking and talking (*below*): Y red shirt (modal/polyester, Nex Marks & Spencer, £32)



HOWLETT'S

The Taxibus Centre

BRAND NEW MAZDA & P REGISTERED NISSAN MINIBUSES

Designed & built to your specification by one of the UK's leading Minibus conversion specialists.

MAZDA TAXIBUS

- 9 seater
- Wheelchair access
- Optional hydraulic hide-away lift
- Choice of 2.0 litre petrol and 2.2 litre diesel engines
- Power steering • Central locking
- 3 year/60,000 miles Mazda warranty
- All-round safety belts

NISSAN TAXIBUS

- 8 seater
- Wheelchair friendly
- 2.3 diesel engine
- Power steering
- Stereo radio/cassette
- 3 year/60,000 miles Nissan warranty
- All-round safety belts

CONTACT MALCOLM OR ARTHUR ON **01509 610267**
OR AFTER HOURS MALCOLM ON **01509 673401**

HOWLETT'S
at Loughborough

Clarence Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire

ILKESTON CO-OP MOTOR GROUP
— WINNERS —
of the prestigious
UK Motor Industry award for
CUSTOMER CARE

Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only.

What's in *DN* next month?



■ **GARDENING** Is everything in your garden rosy? Tips for a blooming good summer.

■ **DIY** What's new at the Ideal Home Exhibition?

■ **MY FAVOURITE WALK** Another reader shares their perfect place.

■ **RICA REPORT** Emergency alarms.

■ **PEN POWER** How to complain and get results.

Plus the best news, views, jobs and offers. On sale 2 April.

e job

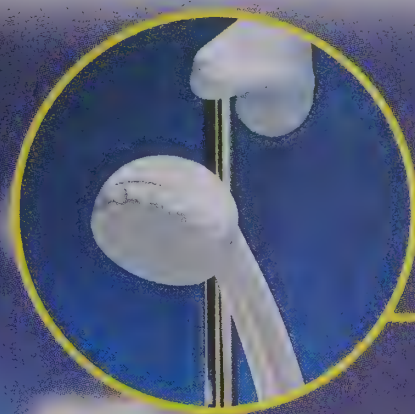
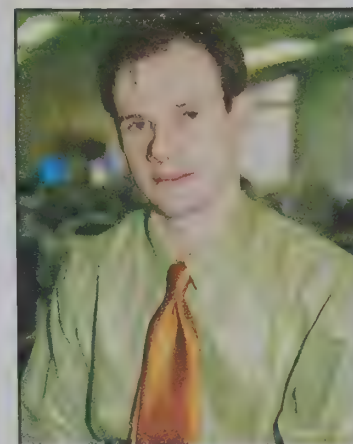


JAMIE FACER

(above): She wears an ivory
silk blouse as before,
and indigo skirt (lyocell,



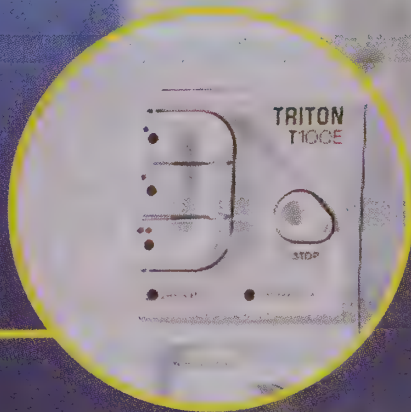
A shirt and tie needn't be dull. Tim brings colour into his life with an orange shirt (cotton, Marks & Spencer, £27) and purple tie (silk, C&A, £9), blue shirt (cotton, Next, £24.99) and gold tie (silk, Marks & Spencer, £10) and green shirt (cotton, Marks & Spencer, £27) and orange tie (silk, Marks & Spencer, £10)



Easily adjustable
sprayhead

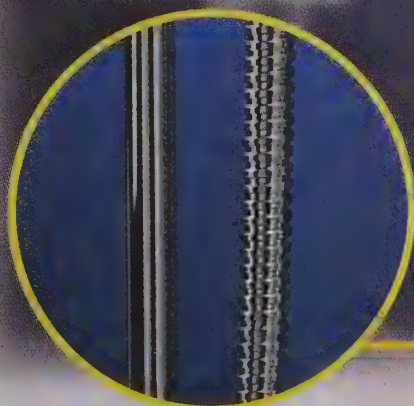
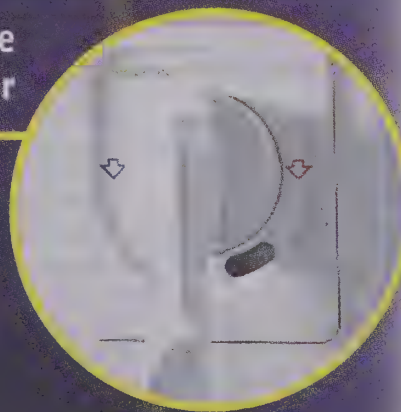


Simple release
sprayhead holder



Large push
button controls

Extended temperature
control lever



Extra length riser rail
& reinforced hose

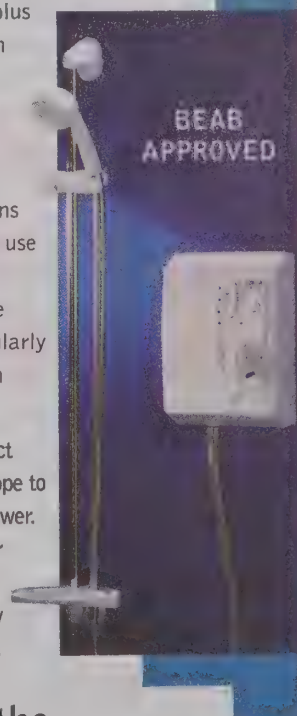
Trust Triton to focus on the needs of the care professional

The Triton T100E, one of the UK's most popular electric showers, has been specially adapted for the care market.

It incorporates features care professionals themselves have identified as essential.

There's an easy-grip sprayhead bracket so changing the sprayhead height and angle is quick and simple, plus we've incorporated an extra-long reinforced hose and riser rail to accommodate both disabled and elderly people. Control buttons are large and easy to use and we've added an extended temperature lever which is particularly useful for people with arthritic hands.

The T100E care product has everything you'd hope to see in a care sector shower. Contact Triton now for further details of the shower that's perfectly focused on your needs.



Telephone the
Triton Sales Office
on **01203 324470**
for more information.

TRITON

**THE POWER BEHIND
THE SHOWER**

Triton Plc, Shepperton Park, Caldwell Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire. CV11 4NR Tel: (01203) 344441 Fax: (01203) 349828
A MORCROS Company

Mandy Watmore and husband Ray found paradise on a tour of southern Africa

They say Zimbabwe is Africa's paradise. Having just spent 18 wonderful days in this truly wild paradise we can wholeheartedly agree.

My husband Ray has been a T10/11 paraplegic for the last 30 years. We have never ventured very far but having won a holiday for two in a competition, we decided to accept the challenge of a safari.

We took a British Airways night flight to Harare economy class, which was a most uncomfortable ten-hour flight.

Our first stop was a one-night stay at a Cresta Jameson Hotel.

The room was excellent but the door of the ensuite bathroom could not be closed with the wheelchair inside. It did, however, have excellent service and two large lifts.

We flew Air Zimbabwe to Kariba. All transfers on the small plane were manual but everyone was so helpful and caring that we did not lose the wheelchair once.

Kariba has the famous Kariba Dam which created Lake Kariba – literally a man-made ocean 280km long and approximately 60km wide – a boundary between Zimbabwe

and Zambia. The shoreline
abounds with game. The
waters are home to large herds
of hippos and many species of
fish.

From Kariba it is a 15-minute air hop to Tiger Bay, a safari resort at the mouth of the Ume River. Prior notice resulted in us getting the honeymoon suite! Level brick paths were everywhere and there was level access to the swimming pool. The open-ended bedroom meant we sat in bed watching the sun rise over the distant hills, listening to the hippos.

Our first safari was on water. The landrover appeared and Ray was carried from this to

An African village north of Kariba (*left*) and (*right*) baby elephants wallow in Lake Kariba

the back jetty. The car was met by the boat and Ray was lifted on board.

While on the trip we saw hippos, elephants, zebra, koedoe, water buffalo and crocodiles as well as various birds. We returned in a sunset which almost set the lake on fire – breathtaking.

A four-wheel drive with guide took us on our overland safari through amazing countryside and villages. We visited Victoria Falls which is, without doubt, one of the most spectacular natural wonders of the world.

The Zambezi River plunges through a chasm 1,700m wide in a series of magnificent cataracts. All but one viewing point is accessible and a flat path runs right round. Lunch at the opulent, old-style colonial Victoria Falls Hotel afterwards was a special treat.

We then stayed at Detema Lodge in Hwange National Park for two days. Ray could not quite get in the shower but everywhere else was accessible and the staff were wonderful.

We both went on safari in the national park which, at 14,000sq m, is one of South Africa's largest protected wilderness areas.

The park's network of game viewing roads are regularly crossed by herds of elephants,



impala and wildebeest. Zimbabwe's second city in the heart of Matabeleland was our final stop – a friendly, spacious city rich in old colonial buildings. It was so easy getting around and there was not much traffic.

There is plenty to see including Central Parks and the wheelchair-friendly Museum of Natural History which houses a superb Cecil Rhodes exhibition. If we had stayed longer we certainly would have considered hiring a car.

Factfile

The Kuoni Safari starts at £1,229 per person. Flights to South Africa, Johannesburg and the internal one-hour flight onto Bulawayo cost a total of £480 per person.

Subscribe and win a weekend at London's Mount Royal Hotel

You could win a weekend break for two at The Mount Royal Hotel (*pictured below*).

Situated in London's West End, the hotel has five rooms designed for disabled guests. It won the 1995 Holiday Care Award for the most accessible bedrooms in the category of 20 bedrooms and over.

Rooms have wide doors, generous turning space, wheel-in showers and other facilities for disabled guests, including people who are hearing or visually impaired.

The winners will stay for two nights including breakfast and an evening meal on one night. Return this form and it could be you! Closing date: 7 April 1997. The first entry picked at random will win.

The Mount Royal,
tel: 0171-629 8040


THE MOUNT ROYAL
A THISTLE HOTEL



Yes I would like to subscribe to *DN* and enter your Mount Royal prize draw.

Individual at home address £16 (12 issues) ☐
£31 (24 issues) ☐
Professional/organisation £25 (12 issues) ☐
£49 (24 issues) ☐
Overseas (airmail) £30 (12 issues) ☐
On Income Support Free ☐
(please include a photocopy of your entitlement notice or the front cover of your order book showing your name)

Name.....
Address.....
.....
.....
.....Postcode

Return this form with a cheque (payable to *Disability Now*) to: *DN*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Disability NOW

**Credit card
hotline
tel: 0-171-
383 4575
24 hrs**



Ray in the ramped room at Detema Lodge

MANDY WATMORE

CAN BE DONE

TOURS AND HOLIDAYS FOR ALL

When accessibility counts for so much in a holiday, look no further!!
All the accommodation we recommend has been checked by one of
our representatives.

It's impossible to list our full range of tours, overseas holidays, self-
drive and adventure holidays in this limited space.

So why not ask for our full colour brochure?

CAN BE DONE LIMITED

7-11 Kensington High Street, London W8 5NP

Tel: 0181-907 2400 Fax: 0181-909 1854

Spread your wings

Alison Viña on a break for disabled people and carers

Everybody needs a holiday, including carers. Winged Fellowship has five holiday centres around the UK where you and your family can take advantage

of good facilities, entertainments and excursions and have a complete break from the day-to-day routines.

Bill and Lillian Jane Wyatt are two satisfied customers. Lillian Jane needs 24-hour care. Bill, who is 85, was told he needed a break from caring by his doctor and Winged Fellowship's Crabhill

House was recommended.

Set in the heart of the Surrey countryside, the centre boasts a swimming pool, conservatory and a craft room where you can try your hand at anything from oil painting to glass engraving.

Excursions are arranged and there is entertainment in the evenings.

During the Wyatts' stay they went on day trips to Brighton and London. They enjoyed the independence they had on the days out. "You could do what you wanted," says Bill. "When you got there, you had lunch and then went your separate ways with your carer."

Bill was impressed by the professional care his wife was given. "You didn't have to worry about a thing. The staff were all so helpful."

The couple are now looking forward to a trip to the

Southampton centre in March.

Ceri Ager has been visiting the Winged Fellowship's Jubilee Lodge in Essex for 11 years.

So why does she keep going back?

"The facilities are fantastic, the food is lovely and everybody looks after you there," she says.

Trips range from going to the dog tracks to ice skating – something Ceri has missed since she became disabled.

"They make a square board that will take a wheelchair with two skates underneath and whizz you around. I love the feeling of cool air."

"For a fortnight, you get the chance to do things you never normally do. They think of everything possible to make life different."

For more information, tel: 0171-833 4579

Win a break worth £600

You could win a seven-day break for two at a Winged Fellowship centre of your choice, subject to availability.

Choose between Southampton, Redhill, Chigwell, Nottingham and Southport.

Take advantage of all the activities, entertainments and excursions included within the prize.

These vary depending on the centre you choose.

All meals are included.

All the centres have 24-hour professional nursing and care staff.

The prize is for a physically

disabled person and carer.

To enter, send your name address and telephone number on a postcard to: *Disability Now* Holiday offer, Winged Fellowship Trust, Angel House, 20-32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD.

Closing date: 10 April 1997.

The winning entry will be drawn from a hat.

Offer not open to

Disability Now or Winged Fellowship staff or associates.



Special offer Save £s on holiday cash

Changing holiday money can be expensive with high street banks charging a hefty commission. A bank may charge 2 per cent commission. So on £500 it would take £10. Foreign money dealer Thomas Exchange (no relation to Thomas Cook) is

offering *DN* readers the chance to buy or sell any foreign currency commission free. And they guarantee that their exchange rates will be in line with high street banks or better. You can also buy American Express foreign currency travellers cheques without commission.

Thomas Exchange has been established in London for 19

years. It supplies currency to many banks and travel agents and is happy to give advice.

So, cut out the middle man. Either visit its offices at 13 Maddox Street, London, with a copy of this offer, or use their mail-order service (£4.50 will be charged for postage).

For more details, tel: 0171-493 1300. Offer open until 31 December 1997.



Last is first

Congratulations to Edward Last from Camberley (above). Edward's mum, Betty, has won an activity holiday for two to Churchtown Adventure Centre (*DN*, January). She'll be taking Edward, 13, who has muscular dystrophy.

Betty couldn't believe she'd won. "I've never won anything in my life" she said. But she was thrilled as the family haven't booked a holiday this year.



Access for all with The National Trust

WINNER OF 1995 HOLIDAY CARE "TOURISM FOR ALL" AWARD FOR "BEST NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY."

Planning a day out? Going on holiday? Why not visit our historic houses and gardens or enjoy some of the beautiful countryside and coast that we protect in England, Wales and Northern Ireland? You might like to try one of our adapted holiday cottages; a list is available, or send £1 (despatch cost) for a full colour brochure.

The National Trust provides enjoyable and comfortable days out for its many visitors with disabilities. The necessary companion of a disabled member or visitor will be given free admission on request.

Full access details are given in the 20th edition of the Trust's annual information booklet for visitors with disabilities, sponsored in 1997 by Barclays Bank PLC, and available also in large print and on tape; sections will be Brailled on request. Send a stamped addressed adhesive label (minimum postage) to:

Valerie Wenham
Dept DN
The National Trust
36 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AS

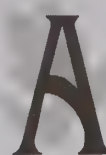


CORNWALL

Holiday Care in Cornwall all year round

LANINVAL HOUSE Nursing Home offers holidays, respite, residential and convalescence care in beautiful surroundings in mid-Cornwall.

Qualified Nursing and Care staff on hand 24 hours per day. Phone/Fax Murray or Shirley on 01208 74921 for a brochure.



HOLIDAYS for DISABLED PEOPLE

Flights to Tenerife, Malaga, Costa Almeria, Majorca, Algarve and Florida. Weekend Breaks – Paris, Dublin and Amsterdam. Holiday Homes in France.

Accessible Accommodation Guaranteed.

Please send a Brochure to:

..... DN3/97

Access Travel (Lancs) Ltd
16 Haweswater Ave, Astley, Lancs M29 7BL
Tel: 01942 888844



Bristol's ups and downs

Bristol is an old and hilly city which has become trendy. But are its disabled residents in fashion? Helen Gregory finds out.

Bristol is an historic city with many traces of its past still evident.

Parts of the original Saxon settlement have been left, and the Old Town quarter, the harbour and the spectacular Clifton Suspension Bridge all add to its individuality.

Bristol is also a modern city, increasingly popular with young people. It claims to be the shopping centre of the South West as well as having a lively cultural scene with theatres, art galleries and regular festivals throughout the year. Unfortunately, because of its position and historic buildings, the city is not always accessible to disabled visitors and residents. The recent reorganisation of the local authority and proposed cuts in services are not helping.

Getting there

Bristol has links with many major cities. Trains from London Paddington run frequently to Bristol Temple Meads, tel: 0117-927 6603, in the city centre and Bristol Parkway, tel: (0345)



Bristol cathedral and college green

BRISTOL TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

484950, in the northern outskirts. There is also a service from London Waterloo to Bristol Temple Meads.

If you are driving, the M32 links both the M4 and M5 into the centre of the city.

Entertainment

Disabled people out for a night on the town can use the free information and booking service Direct Line, tel: 0117-929 9758, which has a quarterly newsletter detailing all shows and information on access.

Bristol's Theatre Royal and New Vic, tel: 0117-987 7877, has ramp access, a loop system, adapted toilets, and sometimes signed performances. It also offers

special rates for wheelchair users and escorts.

Wheelchair users have to have an escort to enjoy shows at The Hippodrome, tel: 0117-929 9444. It has signed performances, a loop system and offers special rates for some shows.

The town has two cinemas with facilities for disabled people, the Arnolfini, tel: 0117-929 9191, and the Cannon, tel: 0117-926 2848. Both cinemas need prior notice for taking guide dogs and only have wheelchair access in screen two.

The nightclub Chicago Rock, tel: 0117-929 1361, is accessible, along with Lakotta, tel: 0117-907 0065.

The Industrial Museum, tel: 0117-925 1470, asks disabled visitors to call before they arrive but promises good wheelchair access and adapted toilets.

Pubs and eating out

The Black Lion Inn in Whitchurch, tel: (01275) 834698, the Hole in the Wall

pub, tel: 0117-926 5967, the Lamb and Flag Harvester restaurant, tel: 0117-950 1490, and Brown's pub and restaurant, tel: 0117-930 4777, are all accessible.

Accommodation

The Glenroy Hotel, tel: 0117-929 1645, has accommodation in an annexe next to the hotel.

Rooms at the Henbury Lodge Hotel, tel 0117-950 2615, are on the ground floor and have wide doorways.

The Swallow Royal Hotel, tel: 0117-025 5100, is large with good access and adapted toilets, and Bristol International Youth Hostel, tel: 0117-922 1659, is accessible and a cheaper option for visitors on a budget.

Shopping

Broadmead is the main shopping complex which includes the indoor Galleries where the Shop-mobility scheme, tel: 0117-922 6342, is based. It lends out wheelchairs to disabled shoppers. Debenhams and Marks and

Spencer in Broadmead both have good access, lifts and adapted toilets and the department store Dingles in Queens Road, Clifton, is also accessible.

Parking

Parking bays for orange badge holders are in the the Horsefair, Union Street, Penn Street and Quakers Friars. Of the 4,000 spaces in car parks, 50 are bigger and have been designated for disabled drivers.

Getting around

Few taxis are accessible to people using wheelchairs. However firms that are include Peter Taxis, tel: 0117-971 4141 and Avon Chair Taxis Service, tel: 0117-974 3754. Both have taxis adapted to take wheelchairs.

Wheelchairs can be hired from the British Red Cross Society, tel: 0117-973 8242 and Ashley Healthcare, tel: 0117-924 6620.

Buses 8, 9, 508 and 509 link Temple Meads Station with the city centre, West End, Clifton and Broadmead areas. Unfortunately there is only one low-floor bus which makes it difficult for wheelchair users.

Advisors are a real benefit

Bristol's Disability Advice Centre takes about 50 calls a week, and the numbers using the service are increasing each year.

Co-ordinator Sandra Garrett says they have seen a 40 per cent increase on last year, and nearly all the calls are benefit enquiries.

Ms Garrett says cutbacks to services in the city are having an impact on disabled people, prompting their need for help and advice.

"Our work includes



Ms Garrett

representing disabled people at tribunals and helping them fill in forms – we find that many people have

been turned down for benefits such as Incapacity Benefit."

Kath Arnold, who has chronic ME and multiple allergies, is using the centre to help her re-apply for the care component of her disability living allowance.

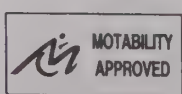
"The amount wasn't adequate but I was too exhausted to appeal myself," she says. "The service has enabled me to understand the system and it has also empowered me."

Tel: 0117-983 2828



Cruiser

Making wheelchair accessible transport affordable



Send for the latest colour brochure

Contact Peter Scullion or Mike Huddart

The Lewis Reed Group

474 Woodchurch Rd., Prenton, Birkenhead, Wirral, Merseyside L43 0SE Fax: 0151 608 9393

0151 608 9933

Need a Break for Yourself or your Carer?
if so

Helen Ley House

Providing Respite Care for People with Multiple Sclerosis
Offers You

- * First Class personal attention
- * Qualified Nursing Staff at all times
- * All Single Rooms
- * Varied choice of Menu including Special Diets
- * Views of open countryside
- * Daily Outings and other Leisure activities
- * Physiotherapy: Aromatherapy: Yoga
- * Hairdressing service available on site
- * Transport Service from Midlands possible
- * Competitive rates

Still interested?

Then write or telephone: The Helen Ley Home,
Bericote Road, Blackdown, LEAMINGTON SPA
CV32 6QP. Tel: 01926 313550. Fax: 01926 888972
Reg. Charity No. 288362

A warm welcome awaits all our guests old and new

Easing student stress

An introduction letter in braille convinced Auriol Britton that Bristol University was the right choice for her.

A year later Auriol, who is blind, has settled into college life and is enjoying her course in theology and religious studies.

"I was nervous about going to college because of my visual impairment," she says.

"But I've found that there is a really close relationship between people in the town and students. I don't think it's particularly important for disabled students to bond with each other."

Paul Sullivan, who is also blind, is head of the Disabilities Unit, tel: 0117-928 7150, which gives advice to disabled



Paul Sullivan and Auriol Britton

students at Bristol.

He admits that disabled students do not seem to get together very often, but says: "I expect they are happy anyway."

"There are at least 130 full-time disabled students here and 50 part-time disabled students. There are probably more, but not everyone informs us."

"Bristol is a hilly city and many college buildings are old which means we don't get too many students with mobility problems, but there are some wheelchair users here."

The unit gives advice on benefits and supports grant applications as well as offering awareness training for staff and helping departments to make adjustments for students.

'We're stroppy and proud'

The West of England Centre for Integrated Living (WECIL), tel: 0117-983 2828, is one of the biggest in the country, run by 26 disabled staff.

Its projects include the disability arts agency, disability equality training and a care management and advocacy project where disabled advocates support disabled people who are being assessed.

Sixty people have used its integrated living scheme of which



director Ruth Pickersgill is especially proud.

Each project has an advisory sub-committee which reports back on how people feel about the service. "We try and listen so people get a service which they want," she says.

However, council cuts and changes mean the centre is facing possible redundancies which Ms Pickersgill will fight.

"We have a reputation for being stroppy but this is a positive thing. We are



Penny Germon (left) and colleagues at the coalition office

demanding rights and have managed to make disability issues high profile."

The West of England Coalition of Disabled People, tel: 0117-949 7707, is closely linked to WECIL. It campaigns on disability issues and organises a variety of meetings and events, from young people's groups to equality training. It is committed to supporting Bristol's inclusive education policy.

Its workload has quadrupled in the last few years and co-ordinator Penny Germon says the job is getting harder as the

cuts hit in.

"Everyone's very angry about the total lack of consultation of disabled people on important matters, such as the closure of day centres."

The coalition has worked to make sure Bristol City Council's equal opportunities policy reflected its aims, and although the council has a disability advisory sub-committee, Ms Germon believes it needs to have a long-term strategic approach towards issues affecting disabled people.

Real Scope

A physiotherapist from the Scope local group in Bristol, tel: 0117-955 5174, makes sure people with cerebral palsy get the right assessment and therapy.

Chairman Len Bowen says: "We started the service last year and now have 60 people on our books. It's very needed, but we will probably run out of cash to fund it quite soon."

The group also gives out equipment grants, runs a once-a-week evening club for people with cp and a parents' meeting group.

The Disabled Drivers Association



The UK organisation for disabled drivers and passengers OFFERS :

50 years

experience dealing with mobility problems of the disabled.

For further details contact
our Information Officer

The Disabled Drivers Association
Ashwellthorpe, Norwich, NR16 1EX
Tel: 01508 489449 Fax: 01508 488173

Registered Charity No. 254544 Registered in Cardiff No. 897405



Playtime: Four-year-old Thomas Knight enjoys a musical morning at the The Woodside Family Centre. The centre was opened in 1993 as a drop-in facility which is now used by 80 families with visually impaired, deafblind and multi-needs sensory impaired children and young people. While there, children can play with musical instruments, use the toy library and play in the sensory stimulation room with staff, while their parents relax. Mum Jane Knight has been going to the centre with Thomas for the last three-and-a-half years. She says: "It's great for him to meet children with similar problems. His development has benefited and we love coming as it's such a safe environment."

HELEN GREGORY

Living Centre on the block

The Bristol Disabled Living Centre (DLC) faces an uncertain future while the Government decides whether to sell its three-acre site.

Bristol City Council blocked the Government's bid to sell the site at Fishponds for residential use last year. The Government appealed against the decision in July.

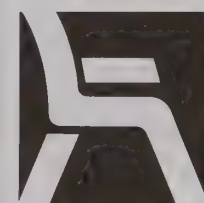
Director John Saliba said: "We've had very positive responses from the local community and the council

wants us to stay open.

"Last year more than 4,500 people visited our site, but if we lose the appeal, it will be very difficult for us to find another accessible, central site."

The centre was set up three years ago to give advice and show equipment to disabled people and was the first user-led centre, run by disabled people.

Tel: 0117-965 3651



THE ALL NEW MKII PERSONA

An innovative, multi-functional chair for postural management

Designed to assist both the carer and cared for. Reduces posture and pressure related problems.



NEW IMPROVED FEATURES

- ✓ Pressure Reducing Seat Cushion as standard
- ✓ Removeable Arms
- ✓ Tilt in Space movement
- ✓ Integral Flip Up Footboard
- ✓ Abduction Block available
- ✓ A wide range of fabrics and colourways available
- and . . .
- ✓ Simple Toolless Adjustments

THE PERSONA MK II

... a name you can be comfortable with ...

As with all Kirton Products the Persona MK II represents excellent quality and value for money, and comes with the added comfort of our personalised service. For a no obligation free demonstration or trial contact our:

Customer Helpline 0800 212709



Kirton Healthcare

23 Rookwood Way, Haverhill,
Suffolk, CB9 8PB
Tel: 01440 705352 Fax: 01440 706199

Arts festival is a female affair

Exhibition

One-woman variety show Diane Pungartnik hopes that her festival for disabled women will go some way to relieving the "double burden" they face.

The co-ordinator of the London Disability Arts Forum (LDAF) and producer of the *Disabled/Woman* festival makes no excuses for what she claims is a unique event.



Diane Pungartnik

Californian-born Ms Pungartnik, 39, believes women have to deal with the burden of their disability as well as discrimination from men who dominate the arts scene.

"The festival will give them an opportunity to be seen, and for other disabled women to become involved," she says.

It includes exhibitions by disabled photographers Claire Collison and Margaret Mitchell.

Claire Collison's *Alternative Passports* looks at passports, ID cards and unorthodox ways of identification. Margaret

Mitchell's *Personal Myths* explores her epilepsy through self-portraits.

Workshops developing the themes will run alongside the two exhibitions. They will be open exclusively to disabled women where they can creatively illustrate their identity.

Ms Pungartnik believes the life drawing workshop she has organised, using only disabled tutors and models, is a first and hopes it will prove popular with disabled artists.

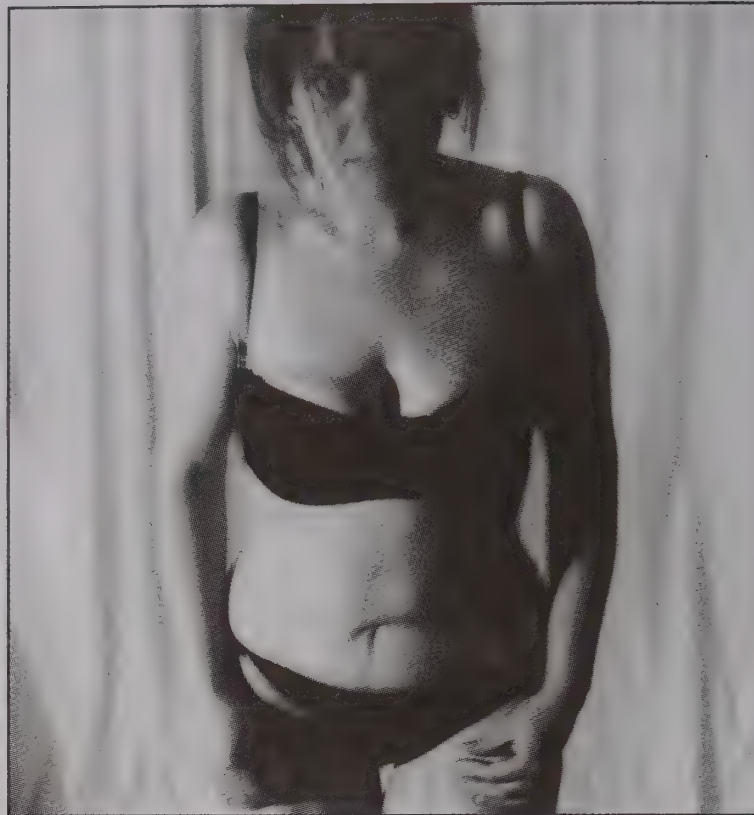
She has also formed the Really Disabled Theatre Company using three actors to perform a new play, *Deliverance*, which follows the life of a disabled woman using personal experience and fantasy.

After she commits a crime, the audience gets to decide her fate, with tragi-comic results.

It is Nottingham-based playwright Cathy Gibson's first staged production and she has used the theme of euthanasia and the computer package from Australia, *Deliverance* which delivers a lethal injection, to develop her theme of being delivered from responsibility.

Ms Pungartnik would like to tour the show around the UK as she believes there are too few drama groups run by disabled people.

"People don't take enough interest in us, and if they do, it is usually for the wrong reasons



Margaret Mitchell's self portrait: 11 years after (epilepsy)

such as on a charitable basis or that they think we're a novelty."

A singer, comedian and actress, Diane Pungartnik moved to the UK in 1981. After running other small theatre companies and touring with her one-woman show, she became involved with the LDAF in 1992 when she wrote a show about her epilepsy.

"I soon found out that if you want to kill an audience, mention epilepsy. People are frightened and repelled by it as it still carries a huge stigma.

"Raising awareness has been

very gruelling. I see producing this festival as a way of putting the group in a better position to get noticed.

"We lost our bid for lottery money and I am sure it is because the council prefers not to give to groups run by disabled people. I'm on the rampage."

Helen Gregory

The festival runs from Monday 10 March to Saturday 16 March at Turtle Key Arts Centre in Farm Lane, London, tel: 0171-916 5484/0171-916 6350 (minicom).

Books

Autism, Preparing for Adulthood

by Patricia Howlin
£12.95, Jessica Kingley Publishers

The dilemma of the parent of an autistic child when reading most books is that one is usually faced with the dual reactions of a) "gosh, that's all too familiar" and b) "but my child's not like that".

Unlike many authors, Patricia Howlin has compiled a wide variety of case material, from lots of different people with autism, which she uses effectively to highlight issues which professionals, carers and parents of autistic people need to address as adulthood approaches. There are no trite answers or doctrines here, but a review of what has and hasn't worked successfully for others.

This is not a comfortable book for a parent. What you want to read is something desperately hopeful, but what you actually need to read is something realistic and pragmatic, and this work is definitely the latter.

Not that there aren't some inspiring optimistic accounts of adult life despite autism, because there are.

I suspect this will become a very useful reference book for parents as the child reaches different stages.

Frankly, it's a bit much to read all in one sitting when you are emotionally involved. The clearly marked chapters and paragraphs would suggest that Patricia Howlin has recognised this and made it simple for readers to dip into the subjects they need.

For professionals this should be a fascinating read as well as an essential reference book. There was quite a gap in the available literature.

Yvette Sanson

Book news

Bully in Sight by Tim Field with a forward by Diana Lamplugh discusses how to combat workplace bullying with information about where to go for help and advice. £12.95 from Success Unlimited, tel: (01235) 834548 or from bookshops.

Souvenir Press has published a new edition of *Down's Syndrome: an introduction for parents* by Cliff Cunningham. £9.99 from Souvenir Press, tel: 0171-580 9307.

BSTA is a Trade Association which includes a Wheelchair Distributors Section. Our nationwide membership network has over 100 local outlets selling and repairing Powerchairs and Scooters. They do it well and they do it ethically. They have high standards - the Association makes sure of it. That's why we think the first step to trouble free independence is to contact us for a list of our members.

Call us or write to us today.

01732 458868



We worry about standards so you don't have to.

BSTA, 1 Webbs Court, Buckhurst Avenue,
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1LZ

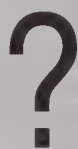
If it hasn't got the mark behind it,
you won't have us behind you.

BSTA



How can I get

- reports and ads on what I need to know on benefits, transport, equipment, events, jobs
- news of the campaign for civil rights
- news of and comment on the disability scene



How can I get

- a **free information pack** including
- the London Disability Guide;
- the SOLT guide to London Theatres, which includes full access information

Subscribe to London Disability News!

published monthly by GLAD, the Greater London Association of Disabled People

	One year (ten issues)	Two years
Individual:	£6 <input type="checkbox"/>	£10 <input type="checkbox"/>
Organizations:	£12 <input type="checkbox"/>	£20 <input type="checkbox"/>

(Cheques payable to GLAD)

Please send me LDN in Print ☐ Large print ☐ Tape ☐
Name _____

Address _____

Return to: GLAD, 336 Brixton
Road, London SW9 7AA

**LONDON
DISABILITY
NEWS**

Film

Michael Turner

It would be nice to believe that the final scene of *Extreme Measures* was intended to be ironic. Coming at the end of this thriller about a medical researcher's efforts to find a cure for paralysis, this scene on a steep set of steps outside a university research centre should have at least carried a mild sense of irony.

Such subtlety is beyond the scope of this otherwise enjoyable thriller. Hugh Grant, as a British doctor in New York, adds some dry wit to the proceedings, but its treatment of disability is entirely serious and entirely negative.

Grant uncovers research being carried out on homeless people to find a method of repairing spinal injuries. As well as using such "extreme measures" in their research, the villains – led by Gene Hackman – will go to any lengths to protect their work.



Extreme Measures

What is surprising is that the research is actively supported by a group of people with paraplegia. Their actions range from financially backing the research, to clobbering Grant with a baseball bat. As ever, the celluloid depiction of paralysis centres on people obsessed with finding a cure for their disability.

While *Extreme Measures* is

clearly not intended as a liberal movie to be treated at face value, its negation of the lives and value of disabled people cannot be pushed to one side.

The price of this entertainment is the perpetuation of the myth that a cure is all disabled people want, rather than more prosaic measures like ramps and induction loops.

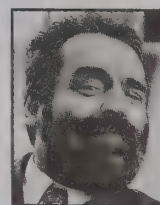


Smooth operator: Hugh Grant charms his audience again

Television

Chris Davies

Jamie Beddard, who played the middle Arthur in *Skallagrigg*, popped up again in a main-stream tv



drama, *Common as Muck* (BBC1, 15 January), about dustmen trying to find alternative means of employment.

One of them, hired to paint the ceiling of a church, is discouraged by his wife who says he has no imagination. So he goes back to the church under cover of night and paints a highly accurate copy of a panel from the Sistine Chapel.

When he returns to work the next day, the word is out that some kind of miracle has been performed. There is even a group of disabled people waiting to be "cured", including Gavin, played by Jamie.

They turn up day after day until the situation is resolved.

Nobody could take this storyline as being anywhere near reality. It's quirky, idiosyncratic, meant to amuse, but not serious drama.

The disability context is quite difficult to work out. Is it meant to be a caustic comment on religious miracles, or a positive portrayal of healthy cynicism on behalf of disabled people? Jamie is a good actor and I'm glad he was chosen, but whether his part is valuable is, at best, debatable.

I'm about to do something I never thought I would do. I happened accidentally to watch the afternoon chat show *Esther*, on deaf people (BBC2, 15 January), and for making a mainstream audience aware of the issue, I award it seven-and-a-half out of ten.

With an audience of almost entirely deaf people, the programme covered the differences between those who have acquired deafness, those who prefer to be oral, and those who prefer deaf culture, very adequately. It even gave Esther Rantzen's husband, Desmond Wilcox, who is deaf himself, the chance to have a jibe at his wife for talking with her head facing away from him.

With so many interpreters in the studio, it was obvious that the deaf people on the show were well served. But it was different for a deaf viewer because, although the programme had closed captions, none of it was interpreted for sign language using viewers. It's a shame that the community being discussed had limited access to the discussion. Nice try, *Esther*, but think it through, please.

Music

About to Choke

Unless Neil Young, Leonard Cohen and REM are your favourite bands, Vic Chestnutt's (*above*) latest album *About to Choke* may not be to your taste. Listening to it, the term that first sprang to mind was "music to hang yourself to" and I'm a fan of the aforementioned bands.

About to Choke grows on you. It took three listens before I decided I liked it. Vic's voice develops from a drone to a sound with more feeling and resonance. It could never be described as uplifting, but perhaps inspirational.

This is his fifth album but the first since signing to the major US label Capitol. To his credit, artists such as Madonna and Garbage have covered his previous work. Vic has also worked with REM's Michael Stipe and the influence is clear.

Several songs stand out. "Ladre" and "Little Vacation" are mellow but have a more upbeat sound than some of the other tracks.

"Degenerate" has the simple guitar strumming that I like and does not fall into the sometimes self-indulgence of Neil Young. The press release tells of Vic's maturity and development from his previous style of "cackle and hum". Although not all the cackle and hum has disappeared, this does not weaken the album.

About to Choke isn't easy listening or good party music – well, I suppose that depends on the kind of parties you have!

It's an album to listen to and I had no problems swallowing it. Despite my initial impressions, this is not suicidal music. It gets close but pulls back from the edge and encourages a little more thought.

Simon Minty

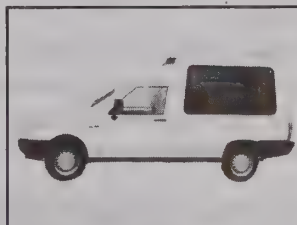
Video top five

1. **MISSION IMPOSSIBLE** (CIC): '90s version of a '60s classic.
2. **THE ROCK** (Hollywood): Sean Connery stars as a con who helps the cops.
3. **LAST MAN STANDING** (EV): Bruiser Bruce Willis is typecast as the eponymous hero.
4. **THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS AND DOGS** (Fox Guild): Mistaken identity romantic comedy.
5. **DIABOLIQUE** (Warner): Thriller with Sharon Stone and Isabelle Adjani.

Chart supplied by MIRB

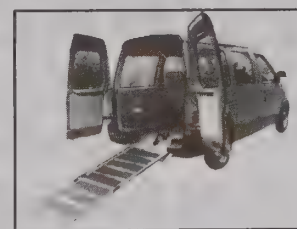
G&M
COACHWORK

SPECIALIST WHEELCHAIR CONVERSIONS



We specialise in wheelchair accessible conversions based on most popular makes. Conversions on new or good quality used base vehicles. Also a stock of used, refurbished van conversions & mini buses.

Conversions for 1 to 4 wheelchairs & 2 to 8 seats with electric lifts, ramps or lowering suspension. For advice & information on conversion & motability contact David Vooght. Tel: 01803 812260. Fax: 01803 813668.

Walkabouts
by Metco

Extra mobility for around £100!

Walkabouts keep you mobile and active. They have wheels, directional control, brakes and baskets.

The Sit-Down Walkabout has a handy seat. They fold flat for transport and delivery is included in the price.

POST OUR COUPON TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TELEPHONE _____

Send to: METCO WALKABOUTS, FREEPOST BEESTON, NOTTINGHAM NG9 1BR No stamp required

Tel: (0115) 925 5488

DN3/97



Extra mobility for
around £100!

Look out for

Theatre, music and dance are fused in integrated dance troupe Candoco's *Across Your Heart* at the Warwick Arts Centre from 5-8 March. To book tel: (01203) 524524.



Dear Ann

- love and loneliness
- bereavement
- personal problems
- advice and support

A UNIQUE SERVICE!

DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick can give disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Disabled herself, Lin is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor and fully accredited Methodist local preacher. Talk to her on (01708) 477582 on Thursday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Mondays 6pm-10pm.



Sponsored by BT

Send your letters to: Ann Darnbrough, *Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

How do I tell her life isn't all bad?

My 19-year-old daughter was born with a club foot which was straightened with intensive physiotherapy while she was a baby.

She has spent many years playing sport and dancing but has now been told that the falls she has been having and the pains in her legs and back are all associated. It is likely that she will be in a wheelchair in three or four years' time. Her boyfriend has not visited since her last fall.

She has had a rough life, including being sexually abused. Recently, she has gone from one bad relationship to another. I really do not know what to do.

Do you know of any sports she can do (she walks with crutches most of the time), or any sports holidays I could take her on with the rest of the family? Or do you know of any way she could meet other people in the 18-25 age group who could persuade her that her life in the future will not be all bad.

Jennie, Lowestoft

Many thanks for your letter

and I am very sorry to hear about the troubles your daughter is having.

It is very disappointing that she may not be able to continue with her dancing and sports. Has she seen an orthopaedic consultant? It is obviously important that she sees a suitable medical professional who can advise her.

It also seems that she could benefit from seeing a counsellor who would understand her problems arising from the sexual abuse leading to her difficulties with personal relationships.

If she has a poor self image and a lack of confidence, a counsellor would be able to help her. She needs to ask her GP to refer her.

As she gains in self confidence she may then be able to distinguish those men who are unsuitable.

Regarding suitable sports for your daughter, I suggest she contacts the local BSAD (British Sports Association for the Disabled) regional office. They would be glad to help and advise her.

A holiday might be just the ticket. The Holiday Care

Service has holiday activity sheets including sporting interests. It also has a leaflet advising on help with paying for a holiday.

I wonder if your daughter has ever been in touch with PHAB (Physically Disabled and Able-Bodied). Local clubs are for young people to get together for social, sports and leisure activities. DN's telephone counsellor, Lin Berwick, would also be glad to help.

Be honest in the search for a mate

"I need a sex life," says Brian of Brighton (DN, December 1996), and I am sorry he has a problem. Could it be the way he presents himself?

I am 50 years old and recently divorced. My ex-wife and family all felt I was not acting as a cripple should – that is playing the veggie in a chair.

Since my divorce I have had three affairs with able-bodied women my own age and younger.

I have found it is the way you present yourself which knocks down the images that people have of disabled people.

I have learnt that those who I had thought of as friends were horrified to think that I should be having sex with able-bodied females. Talking to and holding their hands was OK, but to have sex was a no-go area. These so-called friends went the same way as my ex-wife and family.

I find that an honest approach to yourself and the woman you would like to go out with works if you show confidence, have a good sense of humour and do not whine about your disability.

I have not found Miss Right yet, but it is fun looking around again. Just keep on trying Brian and changing your method until it works for you.

Ken, Coventry

You are obviously doing a good job in changing the image endured by disabled people. It seems that you have learnt who your friends really are and that is no bad thing.

It really is preposterous that people should be shocked that you are having sex with able-bodied women.

No doubt if you fall in love with a disabled woman you could also show the world a

more positive image of women with disabilities.

I want a way to strike the right note

As a 55-year-old with an ME-type illness and arthritis, I would very much like to start studying music again.

My aim would be to sit a diploma exam in a few years time.

I have found a music teacher who would be willing to make home visits but I cannot afford the fees and books required.

Do you know of any charities or trusts which would offer financial help to disabled people?

Teresa, Rhyl

I am afraid I do not know of any charities which offer financial help of this kind.

However, I would like to suggest you contact Kathryn Deane of Sound Sense. I have just spoken to her (I did not mention your name) and she would very much like to hear from you.

She may be able to offer some helpful advice and suggestions. I do urge you to write to her. It would be helpful if you told her the level you have already reached and some details about your general interest in music.

Having taken over the excellent records from the National Music and Disability Information Service, which was forced to close for lack of funding, Sound Sense now has the best set of information files in the business on most aspects of music and disability.

Do let me know how you get on. I am sure our readers would like to hear of your progress.

British Sports Association for the Disabled, The Mary Glen Haig Suite, 13-27 Brunswick Place, London N1 6DX, tel: 0171-490 4919

PHAB, Summit House, Wandle Road, Croydon CR0 1DF, tel: 0181-667 9443

Holiday Care Service, 2nd Floor, Imperial Buildings, Victoria Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 7PZ, tel: (01293) 774535
Sound Sense, Riverside House, Rattlesden, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 0SE, tel: (01449) 736287



UNIVERSAL MOBILITY LTD

SUPERIOR VEHICLE CONVERSIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

WISHING TO TRAVEL IN THEIR OWN WHEELCHAIRS. MOST AVAILABLE ON MOTABILITY.

CALL OUR SALES HOTLINE NOW ON (Charged

0345 413348 at local rate)

For Free Information Pack and Details of this month's Special Offers

INTRODUCING FIVE OF OUR TOP SELLING VEHICLES

DAIHATSU HIJET – FREEDOM
Extremely popular small M.P.V. Cost effective, but can still carry one wheelchair passenger and four able-bodied passengers



FULL RANGE OF DRIVING ADAPTATIONS FOR ALL OUR VEHICLES SUPPLIED AND FITTED. SWIVEL SEATS ALSO AVAILABLE.

VW CARAVELLE
Ultimate flexibility best describes this multi purpose vehicle. A favourite buy for both individuals and organisations requiring a choice of seating options.



VAUXHALL COMBO
Offers increased choice for our customer. Super all round vision for the wheelchair passenger. Available in a number of base vehicle options.



FIAT FIORINO
The cornerstone of the Universal stable built to our industries leading specification, this vehicle is price sensitive and our best seller year on year.



FORD COURIER
Superb looking vehicle, well received by our customers carries 1 wheelchair passenger and 4 able-bodied passengers. Available with automatic gearbox.



Head Office: Jordans, Partridge Lane, Rusper, Sussex RH12 4RW Tel: 01293 871019

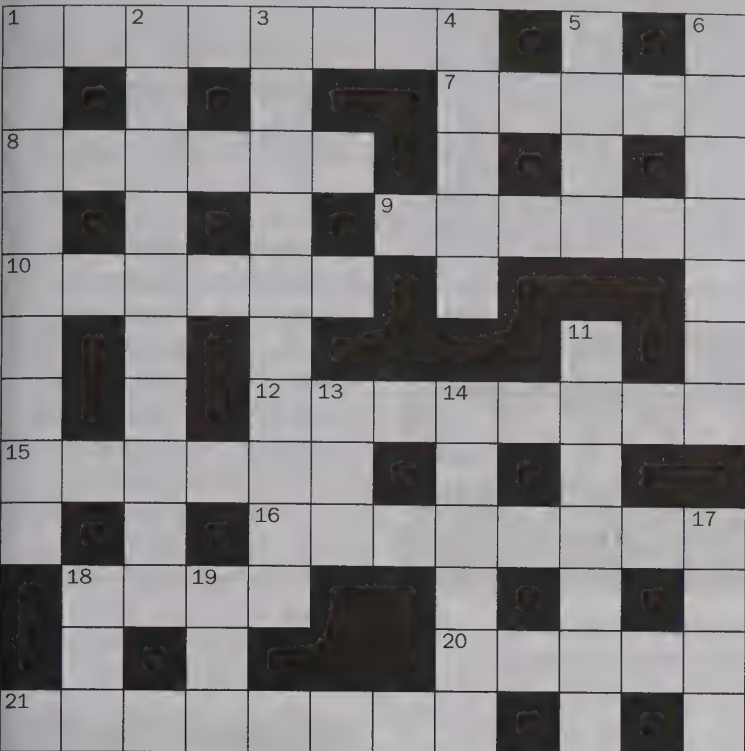
Works and Northern Office: Unit 2, Royd Mill, Dyehouse Lane, Brighthouse HD6 1LL Tel: 01484 400795

NO NONSENSE VEHICLE CONVERSIONS

DN's crossword

Answers on page 28

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

1. Dad rants (anag)
7. To move something upwards (5)
8. Flower (6)
9. Wicker container (6)
10. In position (Latin) (2,4)
12. Rent horn (anag)
15. Innate (6)
16. Supported formally (8)
18. Fewer (4)
20. Snort (5)
21. Pointed sea-creature (8)

DOWN

1. Spine curvature (9)
2. Open to wheelchairs (10)
3. Stained sin (anag)
4. Reverie or ambition (5)
5. Colour or flower (4)
6. Not mine (anag)
11. Attentive or sensible (7)
13. Poem (3)
14. However (6)
17. Dried fruit (4)
18. Rent out (3)
19. One formal title for a man (3)

Trivia teasers

1. What is the name of Sir James Goldsmith's political party?
2. Who wrote the lyrics to the musical *Evita*?
3. What is chorizo?
4. Who stars in the latest film version of Shakespeare's *Richard III*, *Looking For Richard*?
5. Where in the world is Lesotho?

Answers on page 28

By all means look around !

But sometimes that just isn't enough. The **UltraPark 2000** System takes the guess work out of reversing.

- ☒ Designed to fit all types of cars & vans.
- ☒ DIY - Easy & Quick to install.
- ☒ Audio indication.
- ☒ 2 Year Guarantee.



SPECIAL OFFER FOR DN READERS

Now **you can** reverse your car with confidence and ease using the New **UltraPark 2000** obstacle detection warning system.

For more details phone today!
(01279) 436080

Laver Technology - Ongar Enterprise Centre, Fyfield Road, Essex, CM5 0AW



★ **PISCES** (20 Feb-20 Mar) Discussions with a loved one could improve things. Opposition from Mars to Venus in Pisces on the 20th could bring a desire to express yourself in a difficult relationship.

★ **ARIES** (21 Mar-20 April) Your ruling planet, Mars, is moving backwards in Virgo. This could take some of the fire out of your enthusiasm. It may not be a big thing, but think before you act.

★ **TAURUS** (21 April-21 May) Your life may feel a bit out of kilter right now. Wait things out and respond to the best offers only.

★ **GEMINI** (22 May-22 June) In mid-month a realisation may come that will make your next step clearer. Try and move on. Work could take an upturn, possibly at the expense of something in a relationship.

★ **CANCER** (23 June-23 July) Emotional issues come to the fore around the 19th. Be willing to talk things through but try not to stick too rigidly to your guns. You will need your partner's support when things hot up at work.

★ **LEO** (24 July-23 Aug) You may get the urge to try out a new idea but feel tense about it. Don't give up - use the pent up feeling to gather your creative forces and produce some good work.

★ **VIRGO** (24 Aug-23 Sept) Mars is moving backwards after the 9th. With opposition from Venus and the Sun, frustrations may arise in relationships. Take the quietest option.

★ **LIBRA** (24 Sept-23 Oct) The full moon in Libra on the 24th brings energy which may not work smoothly. Be careful about what you say.

★ **SCORPIO** (24 Oct-22 Nov) Scorpios in love could get closer to the object of their desires this month. This is a time for relating.

★ **SAGITTARIUS** (23 Nov-21 Dec) There seems to be work piling up all around you. Try not to get too stressed - the heat should soon be off.

★ **CAPRICORN** (22 Dec-20 Jan) Give in to your creative urges. This is a month of new ideas which will really help you along.

★ **AQUARIUS** (21 Jan-19 Feb) After a hectic February, March brings an opportunity to take stock. Make the most of it as there are busy times ahead.

BaKare Beds



This Volker Home Nursing Bed from **BaKare Beds** is fully adjustable to 'Sit U up' at the touch of a button, and with motorised height adjustment to 'stand U up', or for Nursing.

DON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES !

This is a Multifunctional Nursing Bed with height adjustment.



Unit 17, Bell Park, Bell Close, Plympton, PLYMOUTH PL7 4JH. Tel :01 752 34 22 22

ENABLE VEHICLES FOR THE DISABLED

A NEW VEHICLE EVERY YEAR

FOR JUST **£1000**

Yes! Every year for just £1000
Ring Now! for more details



Users, Parents, Guardians or Carers of Registered

Disabled Wheelchair

users

ENABLE VEHICLES, CLYDE, HALLIWELL RD,

BOLTON.BL1 3NS Telephone 01204 396481

Help

Do you need adapted clothing? Awear, the voluntary organisation of specialist clothing services, has advice and an adaption service for disabled people. They would like to hear from anyone who has suggestions about their service. They would also like to hear

from textile students and designers interested in this field. Contact: Rebecca Patterson, 44 Regents Park Road, London NW1 7SX, tel: 0171-586 3855.

Are you a woman who wears elevated cork boots of 4in or over? If so, an appliances researcher would like to hear from you. If you can help, please contact: Ray Barrett,

Reedhall, Streatham Drive, Exeter EX4 4QR.

Are you a gay or lesbian person with a disability? Gary Flood is doing research around gay and lesbian sexuality that draws upon the social model of disability and would like to hear from you. Contact him in the strictest confidence at: 14 School Lane, Sandiway, Cheshire CW82 2NH.

The BBC's *From the Edge* is researching a television programme looking at disability as it affects teenagers and children. They want to hear from teenagers about their experience of growing up with a disability. Contact Peter Keighron at Platform Films, 226 Wellington Buildings, Ebury Bridge Road, London SW1 8RZ, tel: 0171-730 9641.

Bright ideas



Hayley Kerr on the latest flashes of inspiration

If you've got a sweet tooth, counteract the effects of plaque and gingivitis (the commonest form of gum disease) with the new sonicare electronic toothbrush. The sonicare generates 31,000 brush strokes a minute. If, after you've used the sonicare for 90 days, your dentist doesn't see an improvement, you can claim a full refund. Priced at £129.50 from selected Boots stores, with an Easter offer of a £10 money back voucher. For details, tel: (0541) 550022.



Relief from aches and pains can be found with Champ hot or cold compression wraps (above). Pop the hot wraps (£8.45) into your microwave for up to 90 seconds; the cold compress (£6.95) chills to -5°C within seconds of snapping the pack, and can be re-used by storing in the freezer. Also from the Champ range is the hot mitt (£18.95), which is warmed up in the microwave and worn on the hand to relieve arthritis or rheumatism. Contact Chemist Brokers on tel: (01705) 219900.

This time of year sees many people slipping or falling on wet pavements. Peter Schweiger, managing director of James Taylor & Son, suggests putting slip-resistant sticker soles onto your shoes if the soles are worn and no longer have good grip. A DIY kit costs £10 incl p&p; Tel: 0171-935 4149.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind has produced a new scientific talking calculator. In a sloping desktop case, the calculator has a key tactile membrane which does not desensitise fingertips, making it easier to read braille. It has no display but relies on high quality natural speech output which can be used with headphones. It plugs into a computer or printer, and you can choose the font size of the printout. £180 from RNIB Customer Services on tel: (0345) 456457.

**DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH A SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR YOUR COUNCIL?
ARE YOU GETTING THE EDUCATION, COMMUNITY CARE OR SERVICES YOU NEED?**

HAVE YOU BEEN THE VICTIM OF DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE YOU ARE DISABLED?

David Ruebain is a solicitor specialising in Education, Community Care and Local Government Law for disabled people. He is also a specialist in disability discrimination law.

We offer direct access for deaf people, through a lawyer fluent in British Sign Language.

We also specialise in accident claims, medical negligence, conveyancing, wills and criminal law.

Legal aid work undertaken.



For free initial advice contact:

**DAVID LEVENE & CO.
SOLICITORS**

**Ashley House
235-239 High Road
Wood Green
London N22 4HF**

Telephone: 0181-881 7777

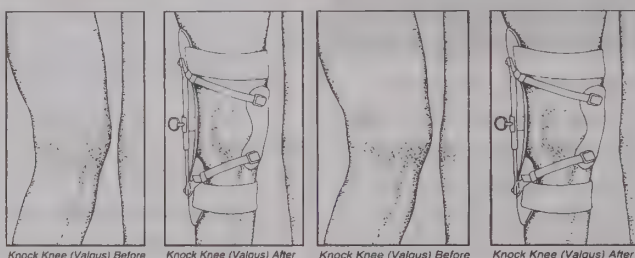
Minicom: 0181-881 6764

Facsimile: 0181-889 6395

THE ULTRA LIGHTWEIGHT TVS BRACE FOR ARTHRITIC KNEES

TELESCOPIC VALGUS (KNOCK KNEE)/VARUS (BOW LEG) SUPPORT

The primary function of the brace is to align or straighten the limb, which may have deformed to a bow or knock knee position, due to weakness of the joint. This is usually caused by an arthritic condition, resulting in pain or undue aching when standing or walking. The brace gives full freedom of leg movement and in many cases helps with hyperextension, where the knee allows the leg to bend to the rear.



Manufactured and Supplied by

ST. CLARE ENGINEERING LTD (MEDICAL DIVISION)

Unit 4, Hollybrook Road, Shirley, Southampton, Hampshire SO1 6RB

Telephone 01703 510770

Fax 01703 510772



Visit the Freedom Festival 7th - 8th June Beaulieu - Hampshire



Sponsored by Vauxhall Motability
and have a great day out to celebrate the

75th Anniversary of the Disabled Drivers' Motor Club

Daily attractions to include:

Adapted Vehicle Test Drive • Lifestyle Exhibition • Falconry • Vintage Fair
Motor Cavalcade • The Wheelchair Challenge • Comedy by G & S Society

Evening Event extras on the 7th include:

**Beating the Retreat – Salute taken by Falklands Hero Simon Weston
Line Dancing extravaganza with the Dean Brothers**

Also taking place on the 7th the RAC Response 1997 Disabled Driver of the Year southern heat

FREE ENTRY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

**Call the Ticket Hotline on 01275 836465
to book your Free or Discounted Entry Ticket**

Personal

HI GIRLS. I am Richard, disabled, 28. Looking for you able-bodied or not to make friends with to talk, walk, go to the pub, cinema and have a laugh or two as friends. I am not a wheelchair user. Only London area please. Box No. 037

EARLY RETIRED PROPERTY manager. Modern detached house in Lincolnshire village. Car and walking stick user (divorced). Would like to meet a Christian lady aged 50-55. Interests: Celtic folk music, travel, crafts, antiques, writing etc. Box No. 038

I AM DOMINIC. I have cerebral palsy. I can walk and talk. I have difficulty climbing stairs without a hand rail. I like travelling, walking, swimming, cooking and meeting people. I am looking for a friend who lives in the Borough of Lambeth. Box No. 039

I AM 34, totally blind and would like to tape correspond for friendship, possibly a relationship, with males between 30-40, disabled or able-bodied, living in the Southampton area. I have a wonderful sense of humour and a wide range of interests including listening to the radio, comedy and music. I especially love reading and I also like to get out and about. Box No. 040

I'M STILL SEEKING that ideal permanent lady friend. Middle aged with varied interests. Contact me soon please. I am 47, a scientist, an Asian from Africa. I am interested in many subjects including chess and visiting different places. Box No. 041

To reply to a personal ad indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to **DN**, address on page 2

Personal continued on page 31

Tenders

Waltham Forest Shopmobility Steering Group seek to appoint a part-time

Consultant to set up a Shopmobility Scheme

Suitably qualified and experienced people and/or organisations interested in tendering for this consultancy should contact

Tel: 0181 527 5544 extn. 6326 Minicom 0181 524 4360 Fax 0181 524 8960

Please leave your name and address and you will be sent a form and outline brief. Forms must be returned by 14/3/97

Shortlisted applicants will be sent full details and invited to submit bids.

Conference

The Disability Research Unit and the Disability Press

in the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the

University of Leeds

present

'Doing Disability Research'

A two day international conference spread over three days to explore the experience, implications, and practicalities of emancipatory disability research to be held at Weetwood Hall Hotel, Otley Road, Leeds, on: September 3-5, 1997.

Speakers will include (in alphabetical order) Mike Oliver, Mark Priestley and David Gibbs, Anne Rae, Marcia Rioux, Tom Shakespeare, Emma Stone, Ayesha Vernon, Linda Ward, Richard Wood, Gerry Zarb

Conference fee: 2 days inclusive of morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea - **£110.00**; or with 2 nights accommodation, en suite facilities and full English Breakfast - **£275.00**

(Weetwood Hall is a 4 Crown, highly commended hotel, and the venue for the hugely successful 'Accounting for Illness and Disability: Exploring the Divide' seminar held in April 1995)

Further information and application forms are available from **Colin Barnes** and **Geof Mercer** at:

**The Disability Research Unit, The School of Sociology and Social Policy
The University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT
Tel: 0113 2334414 or 0113 2334413**

Holidays

HISTORIC BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

Discover the secret kingdom. Enjoy spectacular views over Berwick, River Tweed, Cheviots, North East Coast to Holy Island.

Explore the borders and Edinburgh. Ground floor suite with disabled facilities and direct access to car park. Intimate lounge bar and dining room overlooking pleasant gardens. Home cooking. Courtesy car to station.

**Barry Hazel Hall
Meadow Hill Guest House
Duns Road
Berwick-upon-Tweed
TD15 1UB**

Tel: **01289 306325**



"Hacienda-el-Miguel" the Costa Blanca. Disabled friendly Holiday Apartment for up to 6. Suitable for 4 adults plus 2 children (max). Ring or write soon to avoid disappointment.

Mick Benford, Holiben, 23 West Way, Kettering NN15 7LE. Tel: (01536) 523591.

DORDOGNE

Wheelchair friendly self catering holiday cottage in the beautiful Foret de la Doble with the ground floor especially designed for disabled people. Sleeps 8. Exclusive use of pool. English owners close by. Phone/fax Clive or Jan Pyke for details (0033) 5 53 82 42 05.

Llandeilo, West Wales

1994 HOLIDAY CARE WINNER
3 Cottages, all wheelchair accessible. Rural location and overlooked by 12th century castle. Ideally situated for exploring South and West Wales. Each cottage sleeps 4, central heating. CTV, games/fitness rooms, laundry, extensive grounds. Open all year, short breaks available. Tel: Catherine McLoughlin (01558) 823059 for brochure.

St Leonards, Sussex

7 berth caravan adapted for disabled people on Haven Site. For colour brochure, tel: Shepway MS. (01303) 251352

NEED ACCESSIBLE HOLIDAY TRANSPORT?

Any Size • Any Number • Anywhere
Also Self-Drive
Able Line — Tel: 01792 645388

Specially selected for disabled people, self-catering properties throughout UK. Tourist Board graded. Personally inspected. Details from Sian, "Holidays for You and Me", Caerau Bach Croesgoch, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA62 5JU. Tel: **01348 837833**



5 Star self catering cottages on animal park in North Wales. Fully wheelchair accessible with all services for disabled people, 2 miles from the beach. Three quarters hour drive from Snowdonia National Park. 01407 711433.

Purpose-built Centre

NETLEY VILLAGE - Hampshire
Overlooking Southampton Water, Netley Waterside House has a holiday atmosphere. 16 single and 5 twin rooms. Hoists. Call buttons. Parker bath. Variable height beds. CTV. Lounge. Bar. Trips and food included. Registered with Hants SS. Nurses and volunteers carers. From £235 pw. Tel: 0171 833 4579 ext 132.

VanFare, USA is a tetraplegic owned company, specializing in both new and previously owned adapted mini or full size vans for disabled driver, passenger or group transport. Take advantage of savings while the pound is strong against the dollar. Write: VanFare, USA, 11 School St, Essex, MA 01929 USA. Phone: 001 508 768 6228. Fax: 001 508 768 6404. E-mail: vanfare@tiac.net http://www.tiac.net/users/vanfare

Bonneuil Holiday Cottages

— Designed for people with disabilities in mind —
Own an idyllic holiday cottage in rural south west France. Bonneuil Holiday Cottages is a unique UK owned farmstead development project — site to include 6 cottages, large covered swimming pool, river fishing and tennis courts. Prices range from £28,000 per cottage. For further details contact: Bonneuil Holiday Cottages, 53 Woodville Road, Mumbles, Swansea SA3 4AE

S.E. SPAIN

Purpose built ground floor holiday apartments. Two bedrooms, pool, patio area, shower chair, hoist. Towels/Linen included. Sandy beaches, relaxing and pleasant holiday for Disabled person and their Carer. Please write/phone/fax: Lisa Fowler, RAYMAR, Unit 1, Fairview Estate, Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 1HE. Telephone: 01491 578446; Fax: 01491 413741

GAER COTTAGES

"1993 HOLIDAY CARE AWARD WINNERS"

Quality self-catering cottages for ALL the family with an emphasis on facilities for disabled visitors. 6 of the 9 traditional Welsh stone cottages are single storey, easily accessible from the car park. WTB Top Grading 5 Dragons. Luxurious indoor heated swimming pool with hoist. Games room. Open ALL YEAR. Groups welcome. For colour brochure telephone:

**RICHARD & LINDA BURGESS
01570 470275**

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS Nethybridge in Strathspey

Two original forest village cottages, beautifully restored, fully inspected, personally run, and much enjoyed by wheelchair users. Lots of character, peace and quiet, central heating, log fire, fenced garden, pets welcome. Also providing wheel-in shower, telephone, dishwasher, microwave, freezer. Full domestic specifications available and comprehensive Access Guide to local attractions. Tel/Fax: Mrs Valery Dean on 01479 821642

PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL

"1992 Holiday Care Award Winners"
Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views, Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service. Please ring or write for colour brochure. **R&N Hall, Penrose Burden, St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin (01208) 850277 or 850617.**

THE STACKPOLE CENTRE

UNIQUE HOLIDAY COMPLEX ON THE SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE COAST FOR FAMILIES, GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS: SELF CATERING, COTTAGES, GROUP HOUSES & HOTEL (Welsh Tourist Board 3 Crowns Highly Commended) POOL, JACUZZI, THEATRE, RESTAURANT, ART, POTTERY & MUSIC ROOMS, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE LEVEL 1. For info & Holiday Pack Tel: 01646 661425 Fax: 01646 661456

Sand and Sea - SOUTHPORT

"Sandpipers" overlooks Southport's Marine lake/beaches. Trips to the Lake District, Blackpool, Alton Towers. Accessible holiday centre. 12 single rooms. 12 twin rooms. Help buttons. Indoor swimming pool. CTV. Bar. From £250 pw - food, full care/volunteer help included. Registered with Social Services. Most physical disabilities catered for. Brochure? Call: 0171-833 4579 ext 132.

SEAWICK HOLIDAY VILLAGE

For Wheelchair Friendly Holidays on the South Coast.

All facilities on ground level "NO STEPS".

**FREE Club Membership - 3 Clubhouses
Indoor Heated Pool - Nightly Top Line Entertainment.**

Childrens Play Area - Wheelchair Access to Beach.

Also, Parking directly on The Beach. **FULLY ADAPTED & FITTED LUXURY 1996 MOBILE HOME** from just £75.00 per week, for up to 6 people.

Tel: 01708 863198 for further details.

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

CENTRAL BRITANNY FARMHOUSE

with excellent ground floor facilities for wheelchair users. Resident English

owner. For brochure contact Peter Davies, 94 Church Road, Stretton, Burton upon Trent DE13 0HE. Tel: (01283) 543743.

"Campus" Holidays - Cambridge

Self catering breaks for independent/semi-independent tourists in Cambridge. Accessible rooms. Level access/wheelchair height amenities. Adjustable toilets/basins. Parker bath. Shared kitchen. Wide corridors/electric doors. Shared use paravan. CTV. Payphone. Personal help buttons. Wheelchair charging. Mobile hoists. Adjustable beds. Volunteer support. For brochure 01223 311416.

Brittany Cottage to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details **C. Hodgson. Tel: (01924) 454300.**

NAISH HOLIDAY VILLAGE: Clifftop park with "excellent" status, New Milton, Hampshire. Excellent site facilities within 100 yds. with indoor/outdoor pools; restaurant, bar, take-away. Fully equipped, two bedroom, fully wheelchair accessible log cabin accommodation. Sleeps 6, well furnished. Free club membership.

GRANGE COURT

HOLIDAY VILLAGE: Park with "good" status, Goodrington Sands, Devon. Excellent site facilities within short walk, with indoor/outdoor pools, restaurant, bar, take-away. Fully equipped, 2 bedroom, fully wheelchair accessible mobile home. Sleeps 4-6, well appointed. Free club membership. (Purchased with funds from the National Lottery).

MILDENREATH HOLIDAY VILLAGE: Excellent seaside site with good facilities, just outside Looe in Cornwall. Restaurant, clubhouse, indoor pool. Fully equipped and wheelchair accessible 2 bedroom chalet accommodation. Sleep 6 - well furnished and comfortable. Free club membership. Details: Mr P. Cash 01425 672055 - Bournemouth Spina Bifida Association, registered charity No. 261914.

DEVON — Converted barn

Next to owner in beautiful Teign valley. Specially designed for wheelchair users. Lift to 1st floor, wide doors, wheel-in shower. Sleeps 4. Pets welcome. Tel: **0164 724445**

JUBILEE LODGE - Essex

Purpose built holiday centre. Epping Forest, Cambridge. Southend nearby. 26 single en-suite rooms, 5 twin rooms. CTV. Motorised hoists. Bar. Conservatory. Coffee lounge. Visits/entertainment included. Help buttons. Nurses/volunteer support. Social Services registered. From £235 pw. For brochure call: 0171 833 4579 ext. 132.

Holidays in Lakeland. Nr Penrith. Category 2, carefully restored self-catering barn. Sleeps 4/6. ETB 3 keys, commended. Away from crowds but well-placed for northern Lakes, Pennines and Eden Valley. Open all year. Telephone 01768 892596.

SCOPE IN FELIXSTOWE

Respite holidays for the disabled and carers. 5/6 berth caravan 400 yards from Felixstowe sea front and promenade. Details and bookings for 1997 Please contact: **Jim Bone, 20 Victoria Street, Felixstowe IP11 7EW**

ASHWELLTHORPE HALL HOTEL provides good access, specialist equipment in some rooms. All in a comfortable, friendly country house hotel set in several acres of natural grounds, nine miles from the ancient city of Norwich, offering excellent opportunities for exploring the countryside and coastline of East Anglia. Book now for Autumn and Winter Breaks, Christmas and New Year. Ring 01508 489324

Holidays in France for the disabled Auberge de la Tour

Small, family run guest house in Loire Valley/Vendee area of France. English qualified nurse proprietor. On full board holidays all transportation costs from ferry/airport and daily outings are inclusive, and respite care is available at no extra charge. For brochure contact

Mr and Mrs Bartlam, 40 Rue St Eloi, Courtlay 79440, Deux Sevres, France, tel (0033) 49.72.25.37. English contact no 01395 267084

HOLIDAY COTTAGE SOUTH WEST WALES

Swyn y Gwynt (Sound of the Wind). 5 dragon WTB rating.

Recently rebuilt specifically for people with disabilities. Suit up to 4 people, including two in wheelchairs. Great views; good touring centre; easy parking. Reasonable inclusive rates. As good a place as you'll find anywhere. Telephone Grew on 01267 237261

Have Fun, Fun, Fun!

"SKYLARKS" - Nottingham
Purpose-built holiday centre re-opens in August after £1.6m refurbishment. 26 single en-suite, 5 twin rooms. Electric hoists. CTV. Hydro pool. Bar. Help buttons. Free trips/excursions. Nurses/volunteer support. Prices from £245 pw - including food/care. For brochure, please tel: 0171 833 4579 ext 132.



Glebe Farm Holidays

Glebe Farm, Charles, Brayford, Nr. Barnstaple, North Devon EX32 7PT

Tel: 01598 710241 Fax: 01598 710813 Email Boddington@easynet.co.uk Self-catering holiday cottages sleeping 2-6 people. Fully wheelchair accessible. Out of season breaks. Please ring for our brochure.

BEAUTIFUL ARRAN

Magnificent location, peace, comfort, good food - all you could wish for in a guest house, but with many extras for those special holiday needs. Fully accessible accommodation and a wide range of equipment and services, sensitively and discretely provided. Holidays tailored to suit individual needs. You can enjoy a holiday on Arran whatever your level of activity, and it's nearer than you think! For brochure and full details contact Graham and Barbara Williams, Strathwhillan House, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8BQ. Tel: 01770 302331. Winner of Holiday Care Award 1995.

Country House Holidays - SURREY

Crabbill House. Fully accessible country house - with purpose-built extension. 26 single en-suite rooms. 5 twin rooms. Licensed Bar. CTV. Conservatory. Lovely gardens. Electric hoists. Help buttons. Nurses/volunteer support. Day trips to Brighton, London, Theatreland etc. From £235 pw - food/care included. For information/booking form tel: 0171-833 4579 ext 132.

DRUMDELGIE HOUSE AND COTTAGES

By Huntly in beautiful Grampian. Superb views over Strathgibbon on both castle and whisky trails. One cottage fully adapted for wheelchair use. Serviced or self-catering. Eve meals, Licensed, Scottish Tourist Board 4 crown commended. Brochure (01466) 760368.

Recruitment

**A.D.O.O.R.**

Disability Equality Agency
seeks p/t facilitator of new youth
project in N and NE London,
for 15-20 hours per month
(mainly evenings),
at £8.50 per hour.
Call

0181 446 6648

for details and application.

RENT FREE ACCOMMODATION

Gay man with mild learning and physical
disabilities seeks same sex housemate.

Under 36.

SOUTH EAST LONDON AREA

Offer includes Free electricity and gas in
return for domestic and social support and
friendship.

Call 0171 771 5261

For application form and job summary



Disability Project Worker

Scale 5 £13,581

37.5 hours per week

Based at Barnoldswick CAB

Fixed term 12 months

This post carries responsibility for all
aspects of the Disability Project and
for the administration of training
programmes for the District Service.
Applications from disabled people are
positively welcomed and we will seek to
meet your needs.

For an application pack please send an
A4 S.A.E. to: The Manager, Pendle
C.A.B., 2 Duke Street, Colne. BB8 0SU.
Closing date: 6 March 1997
Interview date: 19 March 1997

TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES

Please contact the
Advertisement Director,
Richard Gresham,
Kingslea Press Ltd,
12 Dock Offices,
Surrey Quays Road,
London SE16 2XU.
Tel: 0171-252 1362
Fax: 0171-237 8019.

Services offered

Disabled Accountant

works from home and prepares
accounts for self-employed people
and small businesses for taxation
purposes. Can obtain tax rebates if
applicable. Fees reasonable.

Consultations are free.
Tel: 01279 415 664

PERFIT

For A Perfect Fit
(Clothing For Disabled People)
Alterations to ready-made clothing to FIT you.
Commissions undertaken by London designer
for any item of clothing made to YOUR
requirements.

Details:
Mrs G. Whiting - Tel: 01233 633550
(South East Area)

KITCHENS - We can design and
supply a kitchen to meet your specific
needs with a range of styles certain to
satisfy your individual taste. Luxury
combined with practicality at a price
you can afford. For a Free Design and
Planning Service Phone:

Complete Installation Services
01902 398778. Fax: 01902 398779.

Motor insurance

The "Access" Policy

A unique contract specially
designed for owners of vehicles
converted to carry wheelchair
passengers.

Substantial premium savings -
up to 30% possible.

For a quote please contact

**CHARD INSURANCE
SERVICES (REGISTERED
BROKERS), 15 HOLYROOD
STREET, CHARD TA20 2AH.
01460 61373/62148**

SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION ASSISTANT INFORMATION OFFICER

SIA, the leading national organisation for spinal cord injured people requires
an Assistant Information Officer to work in its busy Information
Department.

You will need to have a keen interest in disability issues, an ability to
communicate well by letter and telephone, and enjoy dealing with people.
Experience of disability preferable.

Main duties include handling and processing post and telephone enquiries on
issues ranging from basic information on spinal cord injury to housing and
benefit enquiries. The postholder will also be required to carry out reception
and administrative duties and must be keen to learn to use a computer for
word processing and database entry (training given).

Hours: 9.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday. Salary: £9,000pa. SIA's offices
are fully accessible.

For a Job Information Pack contact the Spinal Injuries Association, 76 St
James's Lane, Muswell Hill, London N10 3DF.

(Tel: 0181 444 2121).

Closing date for applications: 14th March 1997.

Registered Charity No: 1054097



DONCASTER RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE COUNSELLING CENTRE

We are a women-only Collective, seeking to fill the following posts. Applicants will work as
Collective members, demonstrate support for women and children who have been subjected to
sexual violence and be committed to working in an anti-oppressive way. There is a counselling
element to all posts, for which training can be given. These posts are on a three year fixed contract,
starting July '97.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES WORKER/COUNSELLOR

(2 posts on a job-share basis).

Salary: £13,581 pa (pro-rata). Ref. A

Applicants should be familiar with equal opportunities legislation and practice, experienced
in developing and providing services for marginalised groups.

ADMINISTRATIVE WORKER/COUNSELLOR

(2 posts to provide full-time cover on a job-share basis).

Salary: £13,581 pa (pro-rata). Ref. B

This position involves responsibility for the administrative work of the organisation including use
of appropriate software and dealing with helpline calls.

Black and disabled women are particularly encouraged to apply as they are under
represented in the organisation. Unfortunately our premises are only partially wheelchair
accessible, at present.

For an application pack please write to:

DRSACC, c/o Community House, 7 Netherall Road,
Doncaster DN1 2PH, enclosing large self-addressed
envelope (no stamp required) and stating whether ref. A or B.

Completed application form to be returned by 28/3/97

Advertised in accordance with section 7(2)(e) of the
Sex Discrimination Act 1976.

Funded by



WYRE FOREST CITIZEN ADVOCACY 2 PART-TIME SELF ADVOCACY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS

18 hours per week

3 year project — salary £13,581 p.a. pro rata

- Are you enterprising and enthusiastic about getting peoples voices heard?
- Could you apply your creativity to the rights and interests of vulnerable people?

We are a well established, registered charity looking for 2 part-time
co-ordinators who will start a new project to set up Self Advocacy groups for
people with learning disabilities throughout the Wyre Forest district. The jobs
will include facilitating some groups and training and recruiting volunteer
facilities.

Some evening work expected.
Flexible hours. Car driver essential.
This project is funded by the
National Lottery Charities Board

For application form and job description please send a large,
first class SAE to:

CATHERINE QUEKETT
WYRE FOREST CITIZEN ADVOCACY
BURGAGE LODGE, 184 FRANCHE ROAD
KIDDERMINSTER, WORCS DY11 5AD

Closing date for applications is Friday 14th March 1997
Interviews to be held on Thursday 10th April 1997



a leading centre
for teaching & research

PROJECT SECRETARY

£10,743 to £11,529 pa

A full time Project Secretary is required, for two years minimum, to join the South
West Regional Access Centre on the Plymouth site. The service supports students
with disabilities and requires flexibility of approach and a commitment to an ethos
of equal opportunities and confidentiality.

This is a challenging post which requires good interpersonal and organisational
skills together with a sound understanding of administration and financial
procedures. Knowledge and experience of computer based office systems are
essential. You will have A levels or equivalent with two years relevant experience,
preferably gained in a caring environment.

We would particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities who are
currently underrepresented at the University of Plymouth. This post is open to
applications for job share.

Closing date: Wednesday 12 March 1997.

For further details and an application form call 01752 232168 or write
(quoting post reference 2147/ACSV and title) to:

The Personnel Department, University of Plymouth, Drake Circus, Plymouth
PL4 8AA.

Promoting equal opportunities

Aim HI

Helping Hearing-Impaired People

FAMILY SUPPORT EXECUTIVE - Wandsworth

APT & C Grade 33-38 (£21546-£24252 inc. L.W.) Full time 35 hrs pw
National Lottery Charities Board funding enables Aim HI to make this new appointment,
from April, to deliver and coordinate support, advice and counselling to deaf children and
their families. Applicants must have Sign Language skills to level 2 or better, awareness of
deaf issues, counselling skills/experience and excellent interpersonal and organisational
abilities. Experience of social work issues, including work with parents would be an
advantage.

Send your letter of application with C.V. to:

Peter Merrifield, c/o Oak Lodge School, 101 Nightingale Lane, London SW12 8NA
Tel: 0181-673-3453. Fax: 0181-673-9397. Closing date: 10th March

FAST TRACK

- a development programme for
disabled people of graduate
calibre. We offer:

■ a salary of £12,000 pa

■ 12 months contract of
employment

■ secondments
with some of the country's
biggest companies, such
as Midland Bank,
Northern Foods,
NatWest and many others

■ training

You will need leadership potential and
the flexibility and communication skills
to succeed in a variety of demanding
roles.

If you feel that employers see your
disability but ignore your abilities,
contact Scope for an application pack:

Fast-Track

16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6LP

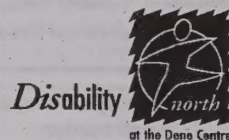
Tel: 0171 387 9571

Minicom: 0171 388 7065

Fax: 0171 388 9775

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:
17 MARCH 1997

Scope is a registered charity, No 208231



ACCESS ADVISOR

£18,571

35 hours per week

Disability North is seeking an access advisor to implement a two year project
in Newcastle upon Tyne funded by the National Lottery Charities Board.
The post holder will be part of a team of advice workers based in a purpose
built centre which houses a range of services related to disability issues.

The main purpose of the project is to promote access issues with voluntary
organisations and community groups in the city. This will be achieved via
the provision of information and advice, and the development and
implementation of a range of training opportunities.

The successful candidate will have experience of advising on access issues,
providing training, effective project management skills and good
interpersonal skills. You will be working as part of a team with
a commitment to implementing a proactive approach to access
issues in the city.

Please send for further information, indicating if you need information in large
print or on tape to: Mrs K. Bartlett, Disability North, The Dene Centre, Castle
Farm Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1PH. Voice: 0191 284 0480, Minicom
0191 285 7261, Fax: 0191 213 0910.
Closing date: 21st March 1997.



USER EMPOWERMENT PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

The Leonard Cheshire Foundation, a leading care provider for people with
disabilities, offers a range of services through its Care at Home Services,
respite care, day services and residential Homes. The Foundation currently
provides services for approximately 8,500 people.

A grant has been received from the National Lotteries Charity Board to
run a UK-wide project to empower the Foundation's service users. The
principle aim of the project is to assist disabled people in developing their
self confidence and acquiring skills in management.

The Project Co-ordinator must have personal experience of disability and,
because of the nature of the job, preference will be given to a disabled
person. The Co-ordinator must have management experience including
training and budgetary control. Considerable travel will be involved in this
post which can be based anywhere in the United Kingdom. The Co-
ordinator will report to a Director based in London.

The post will be on a three year fixed contract. Salary will be £25,000 pa
and a car and/or appropriate assistance with travel will be provided. A
contributory pension scheme is available.

For further details and an application form please write to:

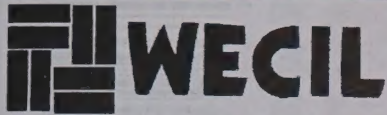
Judy Douch, Personnel Officer,
The Leonard Cheshire Foundation,
26-29 Maunsel Street, London SW1P 2QN.
Tel: 0171 828 1822 Fax: 0171 976 5704

Closing date for receipt of applications: 17 March 1997
Interviews will be held on: 3 and 4 April 1997

Registered Charity No: 218186



Recruitment



West of England Centre for Integrated Living

Requires a disabled person as

**Personal Assistant
Employment Advisor**

Salary: £17,055-£18,180 P.A. (full-time)

To advise, support and empower Disabled people to set up their own Self Operated Personal Assistance Schemes.

Closing date: Friday 14 March

Further information: Wendy Tyler, WECIL Ltd., Leinster Avenue, Knowle, Bristol BS4 1AR. Tel: (0117) 983 9839 (voice and minicom).

WECIL is an equal opportunities employer and particularly welcomes applications from Disabled people who face simultaneous oppression (e.g. Black Disabled people, Disabled Lesbians and Gay Men, etc).

**The Orpheus Centre
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

The Orpheus Centre is a new residential arts centre (currently under construction at Godstone in Surrey) where disabled people and non-disabled people will create music and drama together. The Artistic Director will have overall responsibility for the creative output, education and outreach programmes. An opportunity for an experienced amateur to open and run a ground-breaking Arts Venue with a unique approach. Salary: £24,000 a year.

Application details from:

Richard Stilgoe, Director, The Orpheus Trust, Trevereux Manor, Limpsfield Chart, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0TL.
Telephone: 01883 730600 Facsimile: 01883 730800

DIRECTOR

up to £25,000 pa
(inc London Weighting)

This person will have confidence, flair and imagination, as well as the skills necessary to bring the philosophy of inclusion into the public arena.

This is a newly created post, (funded by the National Lottery Charities Board) to head up a young and energetic charity at an exciting and challenging stage in its development. Set up by a group of parents in London in 1984, Parents for Inclusion provides support to parents of children with Special Educational Needs who wish their children to take part in the ordinary normal life of the community. This includes being taught with other young people in ordinary schools.

We are looking for someone to promote the organisation nationally, to support the project workers, to develop the Helpline, and to initiate long term funding strategy.

Parents for Inclusion is committed to equal opportunities, and welcomes applications from disabled people. Our office in Vauxhall is fully accessible with ample car parking space. Please send A4 S.A.E. for an application form (Print/Large Print/Braille/Tape available) to: Parents for Inclusion, Unit 2, 70 South Lambeth Rd, London SW8 1RL. Closing date: Wednesday, 19th March 1997.

Voluntary Action Camden

CAN YOU TAKE US HIGHER AND HIGHER??....

We need a new
DIRECTOR
Salary scale: PO4/5

(starting salary £26,190 [including Inner London Weighting] rising by six annual increments to £29,856)

... as our current boss is leaving for fresh challenges. We need to replace her with somebody who can continue to lead Camden's Council for Voluntary Service with flair and ability. Amongst your first tasks will be raising the public profile and awareness of our work and the services we offer.

Your skills, knowledge and experience will enable you to contribute strong motivation for staff, promote the aims and objectives of VAC, provide strategic planning to take the organisation forward and to develop and maintain effective networks, communications and partnerships across the statutory, voluntary and private sectors.

Closing date: 24 March 1997.

If you are interested in a challenging and demanding but rewarding job contact Voluntary Action Camden for further details and an application form.

VAC, Instrument House, 207-215 King's Cross Road, London WC1X 9DB. Tel: 0171 837 5544. Fax: 0171 837 5731.

Voluntary Action Camden is an equal opportunities employer and positively welcomes applications from all sections of the community. The building is accessible. VAC has a no-smoking policy. We particularly welcome applications from disabled and Asian candidates as these groups are currently unrepresented on our staff.

RESEARCH WITH DISABLED CHILDREN (2 Posts)

Two full time post-doctoral Research Assistants are required for two years for a qualitative study of disabled children's experiences and perspectives, funded by ESRC. One post is based at the Disability Research Unit, University of Leeds, the other at the Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Edinburgh, both commencing May 1st. These posts will be salaried at spinal point 6 of the RAA scale (£15,986), pay award pending. The successful applicants will have experience of innovative qualitative research with children and/or disabled people.

Leeds post: for an informal discussion, contact Dr Tom Shakespeare on (0191) 495 0405, email tilting@windmills.u-net.com. For an application form, contact Ms M. Ross, School of Sociology, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, (0113) 2334418.

Edinburgh post: for an informal discussion or an application form, contact Nick Watson on 0131 650 3895, email N.Watson@ed.ac.uk.

Closing date for applications for these posts is March 7th

LIMBLESS ASSOCIATION - ROEHAMPTON

National Lottery Charities Board funding enables the Limbless Association to make two appointments based on its accessible office at Roehampton. For both jobs, awareness of the issues affecting disabled people is vital, together with innovative ideas and the abilities and skills to convert them into effective action. Communicating and problem-solving skills, computer literacy, and willingness to travel throughout the United Kingdom, must be evident.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

Salary £15,000-£17,000 per annum

To develop, expand, and market the Limbless, Associate, and Corporate Memberships of the Association - and the Association's impact and standing - through Individuals, User Groups, Disablement Service Centres, other NHS establishments, Providers, Purchasers, Education, Business, and the Community; all to benefit disabled people and their carers.

ADVOCACY/CAMPAIGNS EXECUTIVE

Salary £15,000-£17,000 per annum

To create successful social and parliamentary campaigns; pursue positive publicity in all forms of media; actively inform Government Departments; involve Business, lobby Local Councillors and Members of Parliament; raise real "awareness"; all to enable disabled people to overcome obstacles.

Send your letter of application, and CV, concentrating on one post only, to Pam Burnie, Limbless Association, Roehampton Rehabilitation Centre, Roehampton Lane, London SW15 5PR.

Closing date for applications is 12 noon Monday, 17th March 1997

Limbless Association is an Equal Opportunities Employer

HAMPSHIRE COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE AND THE DEAF USERS GROUP

require

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

SALARY Circa £18000-£19000

Ideal applicant will have direct personal experience of disability with a wide range of skills or experience including:

- In-depth knowledge of the disabled persons movement, national initiatives, and the social model of disability.
- Good understanding of the legislation relevant to disabled people.
- Ability to manage staff, volunteers, budgets.
- Develop and maintain effective information systems.
- Communicate effectively and understand the need for different formats.
- Produce reports and statistical information.
- Work alongside the management group in policy and project development.

DEAF DEVELOPMENT WORKER

SALARY Circa £14000-£15500

The ideal applicant will be someone with direct personal experience of deaf issues and identifies with deaf culture. A wide range of skills or experience are required and include:

- Fluency in BSL (Stage 3 CACDP Equivalent).
- Good Communicator.
- Knowledge of disability issues and relevant legislation.
- Ability to use appropriate Technology
- Presentation skills.

Both posts require people who are enthusiastic, energetic and with a commitment to developing this project. This is a three year programme and is funded by a National Lotteries Board Grant.

Contact: GILL JACKSON 01705 341639 (Voice)
01705 421460 Fax/Text.

Closing date for both posts 27th March 1997.



THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

**ASSISTANT PERSONNEL OFFICER -
REDEPLOYMENT AND DISABILITY**

The Personnel Department is seeking an Assistant Personnel Officer to manage all issues relating to redeployment and in particular to developing and implementing new procedures arising from the Disability Discrimination Act.

Candidates need at least 3 years generalist professional experience, be educated to degree level or equivalent and possess excellent analytical, conceptual and communication skills. In addition candidates need to demonstrate a detailed knowledge of and/or interest in disability and discrimination issues.

Salary in the range £16,628 - £21,519 pa (under review) according to experience.

Closing date for applications: 7 March 1997. (Ref: R1078A)

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Further particulars from the Director of Human Resource Management, The University of Sheffield, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2TN. Tel: 0114-279 9800 (24 hr) or email: jobs@sheffield.ac.uk
Web site at: http://www.shef.ac.uk/jobs/

Personal

I'M CHRIS, AGE 37, girth 32, and 5ft, 6in short. My disability is that society does not provide blind people like myself with what I need. I like sipping red wine while eating Italian food, visiting art galleries, creating sculpture, canoeing down the river, cuddling women in silk pajamas, and having other adventures. If you are womanly, near East London and want a long-term relationship with a guy who is brightly dressed, sensitive, politically to the left of Tony Blair and has so little sense of humour it almost makes people laugh then try me. Box No. 042

HI, I'M A 25-YEAR-OLD white male, slightly disabled on my left side. I would like to meet an able-bodied or slightly disabled female for friendship leading to a possible romance. Please enclose a photo. Box No. 043

OPEN-MINDED, FUN-LOVING male, 31, with cerebral palsy, seeks female, 25-35 for friendship and possibly romance. Hobbies: football, socialising and travel. Photo appreciated. All letters answered. Box No. 044

KIND, CARING, AFFECTIONATE, home-loving man in his 50s. Slightly disabled with cerebral palsy. Still searching for home-loving lady who also enjoys lots of cuddles and physical pleasure as much as I do. If you are out there, please write to me before I get too old for cuddles. Box No. 045

I AM LOOKING for a young lady in her 40s. I am 49, very active. I love animals as I do animal rights protesting. I love travel. I am 5ft 6in tall, and have a slight disability in my left leg. No time wasters please. Photo would be nice. Box No. 046

I AM A WIDOW, 38. I am looking for a special man for happy friendship and romance. I am disabled and deaf. I live in Stockport. Photo and letters please. Box No. 047

DISABLED LONE PARENT with cerebral palsy seeks to share experiences with other disabled parents. Box No. 048

DISABLED MAN WITH cerebral palsy looking for caring lady for relationship, 18-25. Independent, own flat, dog etc. I run my own mobile disco and lead life to the full. Anybody willing to take me on? Full pedigree guaranteed. Box No. 049

SINGLE MALE, 35, seeks female for friendship and possibly more. Must have a good sense of humour, be interested in music of any kind and films. Must like cats. I have cerebral palsy (legs only). Box No. 050

MALE AGED 34 who has hydrocephalus seeks adult with a learning difficulty who would like to play football. Box No. 051

I WANT TO FIND myself some good friends, folk who are intelligent, witty and kind. I am a young composer of classical music. Are there any disabled students who would like to write to me and maybe meet up sometimes for a sort of gang outing to the lochs of Scotland or to an Indian restaurant or to lobby MPs and make the world a fun place? Sometimes I find myself miserable and sorry for myself just cos I'm sodding well different from mainstream doddle-bodied morons. Box No. 052

ARE YOU FIT ENOUGH to push me and drive? I am in my mid 40s, use a wheelchair, live in Cornwall, and would like companionship. I would like to do everything, go everywhere in this country. I have many interests and would like a woman. Box No. 053

DISABLED WIDOWER, easy going. Large house, car, garden. I am tall, with dark hair and green eyes. I'm looking for a lady to share my life - a lady who is caring and understanding. I have MS. Photo appreciated. South East coast. Box No. 054

Deadlines for April issue:
booking by 14 March,
camera ready artwork/copy
by 18 March

For many people, motor insurance was just another disability. Until now.



With high costs and inadequate cover, getting the right insurance at the right price has all too often been just another handicap to overcome. But now one call to Privilege Insurance Mobility Master will get things moving.

different people with varied needs. People looking for high quality cover at highly competitive prices. And that's exactly what you'll get with Mobility Master. A swift and simple service with a host of special features, all - because you deal with us direct - for an extremely low price.

- Comprehensive cover
- Full breakdown and recovery service
- Immediate authorisation of repairs
- Free courtesy car or mobility benefit
- Special equipment cover
- Modifications cover
- Personal accident cover
- Audio equipment cover
- Free legal expenses cover

Get moving. Call Mobility Master now on 0990 773371.

privilege
MOBILITY MASTER
MOTOR INSURANCE

Disability Now

£1.60 March 1997

The award winning newspaper for everyone with an interest in disability

Win a
UK break
for you
and your
carer

Caring kids win

Two children have won landmark court battles which should improve child carers' lives. See page 1.

ELECTION SPECIAL

Who will give you the best deal?



FASHION

Ways to brighten up your nine-to-five



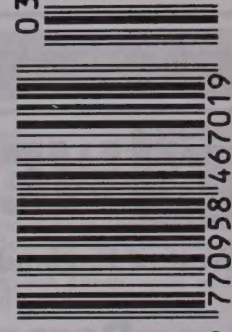
Wonder wall: learning disabled artists Mark McKenna, Desmond Dunne and Kim Edwards show off their work on a giant mural at the Westminster Society's Croxley Project centre in London



Regulars

Health news	Genetic testing looms	8
Parent's voice	Our own Ministry	12
International	Hope in Gaza	15
City focus	Independent Bristol living	21
Arts	Hugh Grant in <i>extremis</i>	23

03



9 770958 467019